

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are some examples of idols today?
2. What causes something to become an idol that we worship today?
3. How can we avoid the dangers of idol worship today?
4. What are the fiery furnaces we face as Christians today?
5. How does God deliver us from these furnaces?

SUMMARY:

Nebuchadnezzar, in his vanity, had created this huge idol, more than 100 feet high. In his pride he tried to force all his subjects to worship it, even threatening to destroy those who failed to bow down. As often happened in the past and still happens, evil men or spies reported those who failed to worship the idol.

When confronted with the demand to prove their allegiance to the king, they exhibited their faith in God and their confidence in His power to deliver them by refusing to bow down to the idol.

The furnace was made seven times hotter than usual and they were cast into it. Thanks be to God who gave them the victory! He delivers us too! Some doubt that the king actually recognized the fourth person as the Son of God. He may not have known God as a supreme being, but there is no doubt that he recognized the fourth person as the Son of God, Christ Jesus. It was not, apparently, a saving knowledge but something the king could never forget.

As Christians in today's world we are constantly confronted with idols which are bidding us to bow down and worship them. Just as God delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we too will be delivered by the one who has promised never to leave nor forsake us.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #9

June 2, 2013

Second Quarter

DELIVERANCE FROM THE FIERY FURNACE

LESSON TEXT: *Daniel 3:1-30*

LESSON SETTING: In the plain of Dura, a province of Babylon.

TIME: Approximately 580 B.C.

I. THE TEST Daniel 3:1-15

- A. The Idol Made (vs. 1) Acts 19:24; Romans 1:23
- B. The Call to Worship It (vs. 5)
- C. The Threat (vs. 6)
- D. Revealed by Spies (vs. 9-12) Luke 20:20
- E. The Test (vs. 15) Luke 6:48

II. THE TRUST Daniel 3:16-18

- A. Faith in God (vs. 17) 1 Samuel 17:37; Acts 27:25
- B. Confidence in God (vs. 17) Psalm 20:7; 23:4; 27:3
- C. Steadfast (vs. 18) Joshua 23:7-8; 1 Corinthians 15:58

III. THE TRIUMPH Daniel 3:19-30

- A. Persecuted. (vs. 19-21) Acts 4:3; 8:1
- B. Delivered (vs. 25) Acts 16:26; 2 Timothy 4:18; 2 Peter 2:9
- C. God Glorified (vs. 28) Matthew 5:16; John 15:8

GOLDEN TEXT: *OUR GOD WHOM WE SERVE IS ABLE TO DELIVER US.* Daniel 3:17

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Daniel 5:1-31

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Matthew 21:33-44; Acts 17:16-34;
Revelation 2:18-24; 3:14-22
Revelation 9:13-21; 18:1-24

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People in Captivity

TOPIC: HANDWRITING OF DOOM

INTRODUCTION:

Belshazzar had been given more than ample opportunity to observe the workings of God. He had not only a head knowledge—furnished by the people of God in his midst—but he had also, no doubt, observed the folly of his father and his final return to God's forgiveness. He evidently, like many of us, delayed answering the just demands of a just God. God demands and has every right to expect each one of us to accept His rule over us. Such delays bring with them contempt for God. Our mind reasons that because God has not given us what we rightly deserve, He will not do so in the future. The words of Paul to the Romans says that God has a reason for this and that we can only be certain of one thing—that justice will be done.

On the night when he least expected it, the unexpected and inevitable came to a people who were strongly depending on their own provisions. Today persons who neglect answering the call of God can likewise expect at a most unlikely time to come face to face with the knowledge that a person apart from God is not equipped for life here on earth or a life with God's people in eternity.

CENTRAL TRUTH: God is glorified by those who remain faithful to Him in spite of the cost.

GOLDEN TEXT: *BE NOT DECEIVED; GOD IS NOT MOCKED: FOR WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWETH, THAT SHALL HE ALSO REAP.*

Galatians 6:7

Time again proves the truth of these words: man refuses to believe that it can happen to him. For each man who sets himself up to inflict his will on another, there are many men who will challenge his right and although they are for a time unsuccessful, there will eventually be one who excels him. The competitive instinct of man was placed in him that each might cause the other to strive for more admirable goals. We should not strive after things that will not give us inward pleasure and a feeling of accomplishment when one following down the same path exceeds us. Then, these words take on a precious meaning. We find ourselves doubly rewarded in that we receive an inward blessing for the acts we have performed and are again blessed when these acts return to us. Instead of a negative warning, the words of this verse become a precious promise to which we look forward with great anticipation.

Plant now what you personally want to reap, for God will do as He has promised.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 3 – 9

M. Two Cities are Destroyed. Genesis 19:12-25
T. A Home is Erased. Joshua 7:16-25
W. A Nation is Condemned. Jeremiah 8:1-13
T. *Handwriting of Doom. Daniel 5:1-31
F. The Hopelessness of the Doomed. Luke 16:19-26
S. A Warning to the Wayward. Luke 16:27-31
S. A Church is Rebuked. Revelation 3:14-22

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