



Daniel

1

Nebuchadnezzar's Image

- Nebuchadnezzar had an image constructed, 90 feet tall and 9 feet wide.
- The dimensions would suggest an obelisk but the word for image is the same as used in the previous chapter. This has led to the suggestion that there was a column with an image on the top portion.
- No date is indicated.

2

Nebuchadnezzar's Image

- No reason is given for this action. The fall of Jerusalem has been proposed as a possibility.
- Every official throughout the realm was required to be in attendance for the dedication of this image.
- Every person was required to bow down and worship the image as music was played.
- Failure to comply meant immediate death by being thrown into an intensely burning furnace.

3

Nebuchadnezzar's Image

- Everything went as planned...almost.
 - A group of Chaldeans approached Nebuchadnezzar with the accusation that the three Hebrews he had set over the province of Babylon did not bow down to the image.
 - Nebuchadnezzar commanded Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brought to him.

4

Nebuchadnezzar's Image

- Everything went as planned...almost.
 - He gives them the opportunity to prove their accusers wrong in his presence.
 - Nebuchadnezzar ended his remarks with the assertion that no god was able to countermand his actions.

5

Nebuchadnezzar's Image

- The reply
 - The God we serve is able to deliver us.
 - Even if God chooses not to deliver, we will not serve your gods or bow down to your image.

6

Nebuchadnezzar's Image

- The response
 - Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage and ditched all personal concern and regard for these three men.
 - He ordered the furnace stoked to maximum intensity.
 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were bound and thrown into the furnace.
 - The furnace was so intense the men who threw them in died.

7

Nebuchadnezzar's Image

- The result
 - Nebuchadnezzar's smug look of satisfaction turned to astonishment as he saw movement in the fire.
 - He described not three but four people in the fire casually walking around and unbound.
 - He described the fourth person in supernatural terms.

8

Nebuchadnezzar's Image

- The result
 - Addressing them as servants of the Most High God, he called them out of the furnace.
 - They were examined by all the assembled dignitary's and there was no evidence whatsoever that they had been in a fire.

9

Nebuchadnezzar's Image

- The result
 - Nebuchadnezzar blessed the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
 - He recognized that God had sent his angel to rescue them and thus countermanded his command.
 - He noted their total dedication to God.

10

Nebuchadnezzar's Image

- The result
 - He decreed that anyone who spoke against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would be horribly executed and their property destroyed.
 - He promoted them to higher position.

11

Lessons

- There are people and entities on earth that have extensive power and authority.
- God's people are to submit to earthly authority until personal direct disobedience to God is directed.
- There is no limit to God's power and authority.
- With God life is viewed from the perspective of eternity.

12

Lessons

- Obedience to the clear commands of God reflects our trust in His knowledge and subsequent wisdom.
- Our unfailing commitment to God gives powerful witness to the truth that there is only one true and living God.
