

## **"Cool in a Crisis"**

### **Daniel 3**

1. King Nebuchadnezzar was identified as the "head of gold" in Daniel 2:38, and in chapter 3 he sets up a large gold covered statue on the plain of Dura in Babylon. A herald then loudly proclaims that when all hear various musical instruments being played, they are to not just fall down before the golden image, but also to worship it. It appears that this demand was made as a way to publicly display submission to the king's absolute authority. Where in chapter 2 was Nebuchadnezzar referred to as "the king of kings" (all lowercase letters)?

As Pastor Roger reminded us last week, who is referred to as the "KING OF KINGS" (all caps) in Revelation 19:16?

2. What is the punishment for those who failed to fall down and worship the image of gold?

What accusation is brought against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3:12?

As we read Dan. 1:20 and 2:49, what do you think was the motive of these accusers?

3. When Nebuchadnezzar hears that the three refuse to bow, he becomes furious with rage. And the king gives them one more chance to bow before the image or face the furnace. But the three men continue to show absolute confidence in God by stating that their God was greater than the king and was able to deliver them. And if God did not choose to deliver them, they would still obey Him. Obedience to God was more important than life to these three men.

Read Deuteronomy 10:12. What does the Lord ask of His people?

4. To serve as lesson for others who would consider rebelling against his authority, the king orders their execution. In a fit of anger, the king has the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual. And the fire was so hot that the flames killed the soldiers who were throwing the 3 men into the furnace. What does the king see as he peers into the furnace (3:25)?

Who is the fourth One that Nebuchadnezzar sees in the furnace, and why was He sent?

What do we read about the effects of the fire upon the men in 3:27?

What does Nebuchadnezzar admit about our God in 3:26?

What decree does the king then issue in verse 29?

What are some other applications that you took from Daniel 3 and this week's sermon?