

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Daniel 4

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Daniel three is the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego and their harrowing encounter with the most powerful King in the world of their day. In the course of time, King Nebuchadnezzar decided he would build a colossal statue of himself, so that the people might worship him and give him his due. He was an arrogant and mentally unstable king who knew nothing except raw power and control. On the plain of Dura, which is approximately five to seven miles southeast of the ancient city of Babylon, he built a giant statue standing over ninety (90) feet tall and made of gold. No doubt this was on a pedestal and the statue could have been seen from a long distance away. On a given day, all the leaders and notables of Babylon were gathered together to dedicate this colossal statue of gold.

According to verse eight there were some jealous people among the leadership that did not like the reality that some from the exile class, Jews, were being promoted to places of prominence among the Babylonians. These approached the king with a suggestion that music be played and that when the music is played, everyone should be made to bow down before the image and worship the image. Those who suggested this knew this was against the religion and practice

of the Jewish people who were commanded to have no other God before them and to make no image or worship any image. The king so ordered as suggested and at a given time, the music played and Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego did not bow down in front of the image. Word immediately came to the king that these Jews were not in compliance with the order, and it enraged the king, who ordered them brought to him. He then gave these leaders of the people one last opportunity to worship the image of gold. They refused and were cast into a "fiery furnace." The fiery furnace was no doubt a "mud tile/ceramic tile kiln" which would have been a large walk-in oven that would have been heated hotter than it had ever been heated. After binding and casting the three into the oven, the king observed the men were up and walking around accompanied by a fourth person who appeared to be the son of God, a supernatural person.

Prayer and Action Steps

These three men honored God and God honored them and protected them in the fiery furnace. God, please help me honor you in all things.

Amen

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
