

3:1 “King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon...”

3:4-6 ...Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations and men of every language: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and **worship the image of gold** that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and **worship** will immediately be thrown into a **blazing furnace**.”

3:16 “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, **we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.**”

1. OBEY GOD’S COMMANDS -- INSTEAD OF -- MAN’S EXPECTATIONS.

3:17 “If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the **God we serve is able to save us** from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king.”

2. BELIEVE GOD’S TRUTH -- INSTEAD OF -- THE FACTS.

3:18 “But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, **that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.**”

3. BELIEVE GOD. DON’T JUST BELIEVE IN GOD.

3:24-25 “Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” “Look!” he answered, “**I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.**”

3:27-29 “They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. **Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.”**

Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”

NOTES
