NOT GOING TO BOW

JUNE 14, 2020
Daniel 3:1-3 (NIV) 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. 2 He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. 3 So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.
NOT GOING TO BOW

Exodus 20:3-6 (NIV) ³ "You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments."
NOT GOING TO BOW

THE COMMAND GIVEN FOR ALL TO WORSHIP THE IMAGE

Daniel 3:4-7 (NIV)  
4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations and men of every language:  
5 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.  
6 Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."  
7 Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.


THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE JEWS

Daniel 3:8-12 (NIV)  

8 At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews.  
9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! You have issued a decree, O king, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace.  
12 But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon--Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego--who pay no attention to you, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."
NOT GOING TO BOW

THE KING MAKES CLEAR HIS POSITION – BOW OR ELSE

Daniel 3:13-15 (NIV) (13) Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, (14) and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? (15) Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"
NOT GOING TO BOW

THE COURAGE & CONFIDENCE OF THE THREE HEBREWS

**Daniel 3:16-18 (NIV)** 16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 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. 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."
NOT GOING TO BOW

THREE HEBREWS MAKE A FAITH STATEMENT:
A) GOD IS ABLE.
B) HE WILL RESCUE US FROM YOUR HAND.
C) DOUBLE FAITH STATEMENT: EVEN IF HE DOES NOT RESCUE US, WE STILL WON’T BOW!
Daniel 3:19-23 (NIV)  19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual  20 and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.  21 So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace.  22 The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego,  23 and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.
NOT GOING TO BOW

THE LORD – SHOWS UP IN THE FURNACE

Daniel 3:24-27 (NIV) 24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, O king." 25 He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." 26 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, 27 and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. 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.
NOT GOING TO BOW

THE 180 DEGREE -- CHANGED OUTLOOK-- OF THE KING

Daniel 3:28-30 (NIV) 28 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. 29 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." 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon
NOT GOING TO BOW

NO ONE CAN SAVE THE WAY THE LORD CAN SAVE!

No One Else:

- Can Take You Thru The Fire And Flood
- Can Meet You On The Highest Mt. Or In The Lowest Valley

No One Else:

- Could Have Rescued Them From The Fire
- Would Show Up And Visit Them In The Fire

They Didn’t Just Survive --They Thrived!