



FIND JESUS IN YOUR FIERY FURNACE

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all right if you got a Bible or you got a device find Daniel chapter 3 we are spending 12 weeks one chapter each week in the great story of Daniel let me catch you up since we're in chapter three let me summarize chapter one and two chapter 1 the year is 605 BC so about 2600 years ago in the Middle East God's people are living in the nation of Israel a promised land that he had designated for them he also gave them leaders and commands to follow they were disobedient defiant disregarding of God for 490 years so God is super patient but eventually his patience worthin and just as he promised he allowed them to experience judgment and Justice with an invasion from a foreign army it was from the nation of Babylon which is modern day Iraq led by a Godless King named Nebuchadnezzar so he plunders the temple takes everything that belongs to the Lord and in ens slaves a number of God's people they are forced to now make the 700 mile walk from Israel to Babylon included in that number is a guy named Daniel whom the book is um named after and three of his friends who are with him they arrive in Babylon they are chosen for the honor of serving in the king's court because they have high IQ highq they're good-looking and they came from royal families but if you're going to be in the king's Herm first we need to emasculate you which is what they did to these teenage boys so the just just just just consider this their Vision was not I want to work for the King as a unic vegetarian in Babylon that was not their life goal okay and the question is how will they worship and serve God when they don't get the life they want and that's the same for you and I none of us will ultimately get the total life that we want and the question is how will we respond and these young men they remain loyal to the Lord under incredible circumstances they are renamed they are brainwashed they are sent to the University of Babylon they're supposed to get a three-year undergraduate degree in demonology and and then in chapter two the the king gets a dream and he can't interpret it so he brings together all the guys from his you know sort of religious spiritual advisory team they can't interpret it so he sends out a death sentence from chapter 1 to chapter 2 is 3 years from chapter 2 to chapter 3 is 17 years so now we're 20 years into the life of Daniel he's probably in his mid to late 30s at this point chapter 2 he interprets the dream he saves everyone's life he gives the Revelation to the king he is promoted his friends are promoted and everything is going according to plan because God has his servant in Babylon as a missionary and what we're going to see in chapter 3 is that everything God creates Satan counterfeits it's a great Mega theme of The Bible and this book of the Bible as well God creates a kingdom ruled by King Jesus Babylon is a counterfeit Kingdom ruled by Nebuchadnezzar who's a counterfeit Jesus so you're going to see a lot of these themes come and in the middle of it Daniel and his friends they have to choose between the real and the counterfeit and it takes discernment we'll start in Daniel chapter 3 veres 1 through3 looking at the counterfeit King and Kingdom King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold Babylon is the kingdom of gold is what it was called whose height was 60 cubits that's 90 feet tall it's breadth six cubits that is 9 ft wide he set it up on the plain of dura in the province of Babylon again that is present day Iraq geographically then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather and these are all the different political leaders the satraps the prefects the governors the counselors the treasurers the justices the magistrates and all the officials all the commentators that I read said we can't make any sense of this welcome to government that's my point everybody gets a title and nobody knows what it means all right welcome to government uh to the dedication so it's a national ceremony it's a national holiday kids get school off everybody's supposed to show up of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up then the satraps the prefects the governors the counselors the treasurers the Jus the magistrates Larry Curly MO all the guys gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up so here's the counterfeit King

King Jesus has a kingdom that he rules over politically and spiritually and ultimately when our King King Jesus returns this was the promise and Prophecy in the previous chapter chapter 2 that he is coming again Daniel 7 shows us how on the clouds all of this is unfolding throughout human history in The Narrative of Daniel But ultimately when all is said and done Jesus Will Rule as king of kings and Lord of lords as king he will oversee that which is political as Lord he will oversee that which is spiritual Nebuchadnezzar determines that he doesn't want Jesus to come and he doesn't want Jesus' Kingdom to come so instead he's going to set up his own counterfeit with himself as king and because he has a nation that has conquered other people groups those people groups they're committed to their language their tradition their history their religion their family their ethnicity they're not primarily loyal to him as king and his kingdom so what he determines is he will bring what we would call church and state together into one entity and that he would rule politically and spiritually and that he would rule over all peoples and they would worship him as the most high God this is what dictators do they want to eradicate the freedom of religion and religion becomes subservient to the state and then the state uses and manipulates the church or religious institutions and entities to create some sort of dictatorship and counterfeit Kingdom that's exactly what's going on here he wants total control to rule over the lives of everyone and this is kind of like a military parade this is State Theater this is pageantry this is all set up that he ultimately would be worshiped and as well he sets up a massive statue of himself let me just say this he did really good in self-esteem in elementary school he woke up one day he's like what the world needs is a 90 foot me that's what it's missing and it should be made out of gold and so he he really thinks that he is really God and rules as a God and then the the question comes where does the gold come from it may come from the fact that his troops looted plundered God's Temple took chapter one The Gold back to Babylon he may have thought I am more powerful than your God I stole his go gold I will melt it down I will create a statue in my honor showing that I am the most high God it's 90 feet tall it's on a plane likely on a base so now we're talking 9 10 11 stories high and if you lived in that day where most people Liv sort of at ground level this was a towering magnificent sight to behold this was one of the great Wonders of the World the counterfeit kingdom is ultimately him seeking to undo the prophecy that God revealed to him through Daniel and Daniel 2 if you remember last week uh God gave him a dream through which uh Daniel interpreted it in a vision and it was that there was like a warrior king his head was gold that was Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar and then came a kingdom of silver it would be the MEO Persian Empire and then a kingdom of bronze that would be the Greek Empire led by Alexander the Great and then lastly the Roman Empire that was designated with iron mixed with clay and so it's showing that ultimately King Nebuchadnezzar's Kingdom would go down and there would be a succession of Kingdoms until the Roman Empire came and then King Jesus would come in history under the rule of the Roman Empire and and Nebuchadnezzar thought I don't like what God says he's going to do therefore I am going to rewrite history I will not have a warrior king of multiple kingdoms I will have one warrior king and my kingdom will rule forever he's trying to be Eternal he's trying to set up heaven on Earth which we all do we're all trying to set up heaven on Earth we're all trying to find Paradise we're all trying to find that place where everything is according to our longing make no mistake Nebuchadnezzar's heart is everyone's heart apart from God changing our heart and he's trying to establish his kingdom and he's trying to undo history as God reveals it so here's what you need to know God tells us what is going to happen and no one can change that the Bible tells us Jesus is coming back he will set up a kingdom That Never Ends you will rise from your grave and you will go to heaven or hell and some people say I think we can fix that that is the

immovable future that God promises and the story of Nebuchadnezzar is once God tells you what the future holds it is absolutely written in stone and irrevocable in addition where does all of this happen modern day Iraq it goes all the way back this place does to Genesis the first book of the Bible in chapter 10 there's a guy named Nimrod let me just say this if you're like I want to name my kid after something in the Bible keep reading don't pick that one that would be horrible for you're you're in the Bible Johnny thanks Dad I love getting beat up at recess okay so there's this guy named Nimrod and he sets up the first nation state cult and he does it in Babel Genesis 11 he sets up the city of Babel which has in the center a high tower the Tower of Babel it is their counterfeit Kingdom worshiping him as a counterfeit God it is all demonic and he Vil 1500 years later in that same place Daniel 1 calls it shinar that is ancient Babel or Babylon 1500 years later The Same Spirit provokes Nebuchadnezzar to do the same thing as Nimrod to set up a great city that is a counterfeit heaven on Earth and that has a high place that shows the glory of man all of this is not just physical it's spiritual there are in various times and seasons at work behind human history Supernatural forces at work which is why we see patterns through history because times and places and people change but the spirits working behind them remain the same and here they are told Bow Down and Worship this Idol made of gold question have God's people failed at this previously they have in Exodus they are delivered from another counterfeit his name is is Pharaoh another counterfeit Kingdom right it's called Egypt and and they are delivered and they go out into the Wilderness and they take the gold that they plundered from Egypt and they create a golden calf that they Bow Down and Worship here it is the same Temptation and test and The Same Spirit at work behind that Temptation and test three things I want to share briefly number one only the real King knows and controls the future God and chapter 2 said here's the future Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 3 says I have an alternate rendering for the future only God knows and controls the future the future that Nebuchadnezzar as the most powerful dictator on the earth tried to create he did not have the power to do so because nothing can overcome an all powerful God in his intent for the future number two everyone wants to be a king with a kingdom that they rule over and control we all do if you look at Nebuchadnezzar you're like I can't believe he did that if you had his power and his money we would be experiencing the same thing okay this is where ultimately he wants to be a king he wants a kingdom and he wants total control he wants everyone and everything to do it the way that he wants we all do this some of us try at work we try to set it up so that we are in control it doesn't work we come home we try to set it up that we're in control that doesn't work so then we coach little league and Bully 10e old boys that's what we do in Scottsdale we bully 10-year-old boys so that we are the king and they are under our dominion and we have control okay I'm G to offend you and if I haven't just be patient I'll get there in a moment number three people who don't know God end up worshiping other people and that's what he's saying everybody Bow Down and Worship me the image of me the image of me we're not supposed to worship a human being or the image of any human being Colossians says that Christ is the image of the invisible God if you want to worship someone worship Jesus if you want to worship the image of something worship Jesus he is the image of the invisible God and that ultimately people that don't know how to worship God they worship people we call this Spar of man people pleasing codependent relationships you are in control I exist to meet your needs please don't pour out your wrath on me I just live for your pleasure how should I bow down this is not just a Babylonian problem this is a human problem this is not just a historical problem this is an eternal problem in addition they have counterfeit worship uh we see that in Daniel 3 4-7 in the herald so he's the counterfeit preacher he's got my job his job is to get up and talk The Herald proclaimed aloud you are commanded oh peoples Nations and languages that

when you hear the sound and they're going to go through the band so here's the counterfeit worship team it's the counterfeit worship team they're going to have counterfeit church here here's the instruments the horn the pipe the liar the Trigon if you know what that is please tell me bring it I'd love to hear it the harp the bag pipes so the Scott showed up you know this is going to get interesting real quick and every kind of music some people say why do we need to have a band because Satan does why do we need to have a sound system because Satan does and I think that ours should be at least as good cuz our King is more worthy right if Satan's going to throw church then we should throw better church that's what I'm saying so bring your bagpipe all right you are to Fall Down and Worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up and whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace let me just tell you that their worship really went to another level on this occasion previously there were some guys checking their phone I wonder if the Cardinals are going to get a good draft pick I wonder what's going on with the impeachment trials on this occasion they were all singing cuz it was two options sing or burn okay we're singing now we're not going to do that today but I would still like you to sing right not because you're going into a fiery furnace if you don't but because of Jesus you don't have to worry about any fiery furnace okay goes on therefore as soon as all the people's heard the sound of the horn the pipe the liar the Trigon the harp the bagpipe they keep saying these inst over and over I think it's written by a guy who works at Guitar Center he's really into the details and every kind of music all the people's Nations and languages fell down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up counterfeit preacher he's The Herald and he commanded counterfeit worship abandoned church counterfeit Jesus what he is saying is all peoples from All Nations tribes and tongues need to Bow Down and Worship the Great Nebuchadnezzar this is the counterfeit Jesus in Revelation 7 and Revelation connects with Daniel Daniel tells us the future and then Revelation shows us the future if you know the story of Revelation in chapter 7:9 it says that there is a real king named Jesus ruling over a real Kingdom the Kingdom of Heaven Seated on a real throne and being worshiped by people from All Nations tribes tongues languages and peoples he just wants to be Jesus he he just wants to be Jesus and he wants everyone to worship him as ultimately we were created to worship Jesus and here this is counterfeit evangelism this is the Demonic equivalent of a Billy Graham rally I see I love Billy Graham he's with Jesus today he's having a great day right his faith became sight he doesn't regret preaching Jesus right now I promise you that I got to meet Billy Graham when I was college student I got to go out and visit him just shortly before his death maybe a few years before I'll never forget sitting at my first Billy Graham rally stadium is full tens of thousands of people unbelievable there's singing and worship and Proclamation and then everybody needs to publicly declare if they are going to worship Jesus it was one of the most moving things I've ever seen in my whole life this is the Demonic equivalent of a Billy Graham rally there are hundreds of thousands of people and then they make the altar call okay who's going to worship Nebuchadnezzar you can't all come forward cuz there's too many of you just bow down where you are and everyone who bows down they are converting to the worship of Satan demons and the spirit of Babylon that ultimately is empowering the work of Nebuchadnezzar this is incredibly incredibly spiritual and what the herald says is convert or die convert or die some years ago Grace and I had dinner with a deer man named Chuck Coulson he sent since G home to be with the Lord he's a political leader who got saved later in life and talked a lot about Jesus and did some tremendous work but as we're having dinner he said uh do you know the difference between Christianity and other religions I said what might that be he said Christianity is about proposition other religions are about

imposition it's always stuck with me imposition is convert or die proposition is what a man does when he wants to marry a woman he proposes a loving relationship Jesus proposes a loving relationship he does not impose that kind of submission and surrender of the knee without ultimately a surrender and submission of the heart see what Nebuchadnezzar wants is outward what Jesus wants is inward you can make people obey but you can't make people love they need to make that choice for themselves this is the same spirit that is running Islamic terrorism Global Jihad and things like Isis they literally show up to the Christians and say in this same area of Iran and Iraq that the story takes place 2,600 years ago that same spirit is still at work today telling Christians convert or die and many are being murdered and martyred you need to know that you have a choice to make regarding who your God is and who you will worship and he proposes a loving relationship his is a kingdom based Bas upon proposition not imposition now let me say this as well sometimes when we read older books of the Bible we can think that this is just sort of interesting history but the Bible doesn't just tell us what happened but it tells us rather what always happens as I said because the same spirit is at work behind the scenes I was in my study this week preparing the sermon and I felt like the Holy Spirit brought to my mind some images I started seeing some things that I've seen over the years and all of a sudden I realize that the spirit of Babylon is still at work I'll show you Korea North Korea does that look familiar North Korea it is a it is a spirit of Babylon state where the dictator rules as God and oversees that which is political and spiritual and you bow down to him or you die next slide this is Turk men may not know where it's at Iraq which is Babylon Iran which is next door which is Persia Turkmenistan next door this is the king riding in on a horse to set up a kingdom if you know the Bible I'll just say this that's a copyright infringement that's exactly what that is that's a copyright infringement Jesus shows up on a on a horse he he this is a counterfeit Same Spirit at work how about the next one China look familiar how many of you your mind just exploded say how come these same things keep happening because the same Spirits are still working Nations change Kings and kingdoms change but the spirits don't last one this was in Iraq this was in Babylon this was Saddam Hussein until His Image was toppled and taken down okay okay now let me say something very offensive that's not an apology that's just a clue okay that's just a clue all around the valley are Mormon temples they are demonic counterfeits with a different Jesus they have reposition themselves as a church denomination don't call us Mormons call us the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints no because the church are the people who belong to the real Jesus on top of every Temple is what golden angel Moroni a demon in gold in authority and Dominion ruling over that place for the wrong Kingdom just because you drive by it all the time don't get too familiar with it and have the heart of Daniel and his friends they didn't hate Nebuchadnezzar or Babylon they knew that their war was not against flesh and blood but Powers principalities and spirits and that they were there to love the Babylonians and bring them the love of God okay pray for the temples pray for your Mormon neighbors and friends and have the conversation about the real Jesus okay because we want them to meet the real king and be part of the real Kingdom and not under the Demonic authority of a ruling and reigning counterfeit spirit that is literally the spirit of Nebuchadnezzar and B LA and a spirit of gold ruling over a false religious service with a false band and a false Herald and false evangelism Colts are nothing more than counterfeits and then Nebuchadnezzar is going to set up a counterfeit hell here's the point Satan is not creative God is creative and Creator Satan not he wears knockoff Jordans he he he he eats he eats chips that are you know just plain bag I mean he he just he can't come up with anything yeah his Louis Vuitton fake got it at the Swap Market not the real thing right everything is a fake everything's a forgery every everything's a counterfeit here he sets up counterfeit hell Daniel 3 8-

15 therefore at that time certain calans those of the Babylonians came forward and maliciously accused the Jews you're going to start to see anti-Semitism they declared to the King Nebuchadnezzar oh King live forever he will it's just not going to go very well for him you oh King have made a decree that every man who hears the sound of the horn the pipe the liar the Trigon the harp the bagpipe and every kind of music shall fall down and worship the golden image your image whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace here's the problem there are certain Jews does this sound familiar we have a problem with the Jews can we throw them in the fire he's Hitler The Same Spirit working in Nebuchadnezzar work and Adolf Hitler we're having a problem with the Jews let's let's put them in the furnace it's not just what happened it's what always happens and this just tells you that human beings are not innately good in getting better that we need a new heart and a new nature because here's the deal I know this is going to be shocking but we would do the same thing if we had the same power let me just ask you this if you could throw someone into a fire and have no consequence who would that be if anyone is on your list you have the heart of Nebuchadnezzar that's why Jesus tells us to forgive our enemies and let him deal with them this is all a counterfeit goes on whoever does not fall down to worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace there are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the Affairs of the province of Babylon Shadrach Meshach and Abednego if you're into vils that's rackshack and Benny these three guys are ruling these men oh King pay no attention to you how dare they they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up next slide please then Nebuchadnezzar in a furious rage so the king heats up and then he's going to heat the furnace up it's all heating up commanded that Shadrach mishack and Abednego be brought so they brought these men before the King Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them is it true oh Shadrach mesach and abedo that you do not serve my gods it's ultimately a worship issue everything is a worship issue or worship the golden image that I have set up how dare you I made this very simple I brought in the band I made the beautiful statue of that handsome guy all you got to do is bow down sing a few songs why is this so hard I'm giving you another chance I think that he knows that they are valuable they have helped him and he doesn't want to necessarily kill them so he's going to give them a second chance but if you do not worship you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace and here's the issue he's picking a fight with God a fight you always lose and who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands worship me or go in the fire those are your options first question that comes up is where's Daniel if you're going to call in sick to work this is the day oh I'd love to come in I heard I love the band the stat gold is my but I just I got the I got the flu I don't want to get you sick nabie right uh we don't know where Daniel's just gone right he's not he's focal in chapters 1 and two he's focal from chapters 4 through 12 he's absent in chapter 3 his friends take Center Stage some say well maybe he was away on state business representing the king and some Kingdom Affair maybe so someone in our staff Bible study suggested that maybe he really needed Daniel because Daniel could interpret dreams and brought the power of God and was you know a help and a blessing to him because of God's presence but he knew that Daniel wouldn't Bow Down and Worship Him so maybe he sent Daniel off or set him off to the side so that he wouldn't have to put to death one of his chief leaders I don't know it mean what does it mean what does it mean to act act like act like a man there are many places in this world that are here to help men what's worse most churches nowadays are run by guys you could knock over with a stiff breeze is it okay for a woman to make more than a man absolutely I okay are you a man yeah I am okay then describe yourself I'm the bread winner and he is more of like the St home type I know he takes on a lot of more quote unquote feminine roles same thing with

women there's I'm pretty sure there could be women that could be men it's more of like patriarchy that's like the thing to act like a man I don't think there's like generally any way that anyone's supposed to act anymore how in the world are we supposed to know what it means to act like a man been waiting more than 30 years to write my first ever men's book and help you learn how to act like a [Music] man the moral of the story is this the test of good leadership is what the followers do when the leader is gone that's the test Daniel was the leader He's listed first he gets the interpretation of the dream he calls prayer and praise meeting with his friends at the house he's the leader he's in the chief position they are promoted to serve under his leadership he's the leader the test of leadership is what the followers do when the leader is gone and let me just say this is really a great parent it's a great leadership lesson and ultimately it's a great parenting lesson the you and I are raising our kids like these boys to live in Babylon and the question is what will they do when we are not present this is where we need to raise our CH children to be wise and Discerning and good in decisionmaking so that they can continue in the purposes of God whether or not they are present with us his friends are going to walk in the will of God even though they are not walking at this moment with Daniel and their charges against these men are incredible now if you remember it was Daniel and his friends to whom God revealed the vision that interpreted the dream and as a result these guys who are now calling for their death the only reason that their lives were spared is by Daniel and his friends so 17 years prior they spare the lives of these men and then these men in return want to take their life a lot of life is unjust a lot of life is evil and many people don't appreciate what you do for them that's the case here but he he gives them these three accusations they disrespect the king that's treason they don't worship your Gods this is religious terrorism hey we have a religion we worship God these guys bring in their own God they think that our God is you know lesser than their God and that we should all bow down this is this is like a religious zealot terrorist group in their mind and then number three they won't bow down they're publicly protesting they're protesting the counterfeit King here has got a real crisis on his hands because culture is one of two things it's what you teach and it's what you tolerate see if you've got a family system and you say hey nobody gets to you know cuss out mom you let one of the kids cuss out mom you may be teaching one thing tolerating another what do you get not what you teach what you tolerate he just said everybody worship me that's what he's teaching he cannot therefore tolerate three Who Will Not Bow Down and Worship Him and all leadership comes either from fear and control or love and influence he is a leader working from fear and control our God is a God who works through love and influence so he cannot give Mercy like our loving King can because his is contingent upon an iron fisted control and punishment for anyone who disobeys so what he tells them is you are going to get thrown into a furnace which is the counterfeit hell I mean the whole book is God creates Satan counterfeits chapter one counterfeit communion eat the King's food drink the king's drink chapter two counterfeit worship leaders trying to interpret the dreams that he had chapter three counterfeit King counterfeit Kingdom counterfeit Church counterfeit Evangelistic rally here we got counterfeit hell some critics of the Bible will say that's weird where' they get the furnace I'll tell you possibly where from the melting down of the gold it's not like they made a furnace you need a furnace to melt the gold to create the statue so likely nearby is the furnace and I did a little research to get gold to melt you need the temperature to be just right around 2,000 de a Woodfire can at most maybe burn a third of that temperature last night Grace and I sat out by the fire and I took a photo and sent it to my friend he's like you ready for Daniel 3 huh chuckle chuckle I was like I I didn't think of that but yeah I guess I am I'm I'm sitting here in front of the fire getting ready for Daniel 3 the I we stoked a big hot fire and it radiated heat out

but that fire was probably a couple hundred degrees the fire to melt gold is a couple thousand degrees something it was shaped possibly like um a nuclear reactor an opening at the top for the Heat to escape an opening at the bottom to shove the coal in because you need coal and lots of U air movement to get anything to that kind of temperature it's probably next to a hill so they could dump whatever in that they needed to and let Escape whatever they needed to and that's where they bring them in and they're going to literally throw them into this Burning fiery furnace that is going to be a couple thousand degrees and again as I told this is the same spirit that was at work in Nazi Germany we have a problem with the Jews let's throw them in a furnace Grace and I went to Germany some months ago we visited the Protestant Reformation sites Luther's house some other places and then we went to some of the museums to look at the history of Germany including Nazi propaganda and history and then we went to a concentration camp it was sashan housing it was a it was for the housing primarily of political prisoners medical testing was done on human beings that is literally transformed what we would call uh the pharmaceutical industry and they use people as human guinea pigs I mean they they didn't consider people to be human apart from the teaching of the Bible you don't think that other people's lives matter as much as yours and so you kill them when they're unborn and then you persecute them after they are born and all of that is the spirit of Babylon and when we were in sashan has and it was just dark it was demonic and as we toured the barracks and looked at the facilities it was kind of horrifying because it was surrounded with walls in which people were literally put in a fiery furnace and their ashes would rise up and the wind would carry it over the wall where the children of the guards lived and played next door on the other side of the wall the guards lived with their wives their kids they had a pond uh they had a park they had they' literally bring in rides and entertainment carnivals for the families and kids it was beautiful manicured grass there are beautiful trees it was Heaven on Earth and on the other side of the wall was hell on Earth and these men would have breakfast in this environment pass through the gate take men women and children put them in a fiery furnace their ashes would go up the men would go home and the ashes would fall on their children playing at the park not knowing that those were the ashes of the children on the other side of the wall the Bible is true we are not good people getting better that we need an absolute new nature and a heart change at the deepest level from God and we could look at people like that and say I can't believe they did that or we can be honest and say if I had their wealth and power I would do the same thing to some people that I would like to get into my furnace and this is where we need to be forgiven by the Lord Jesus we need to heart change from the Lord Jesus and we need to forgive others and leave them to the Lord Jesus okay this is where the only solution to the spirit of Babylon is the presence of the spirit of God now the good news is there are real worshippers here there are real worshippers but they are experiencing what we would call a lot of heat you're going to see it in just a moment they turn the temperature up and here's what the spirit of Babylon does it'll just keep turning the heat up on you to get you to conform and Bow Down and we use this language in our day hey you know what turn the heat up on them more pressure that's what these men are experiencing and the pressure is to worship someone or something other than their God and so what happens is the historians tell us that likely 300,000 people bowed down in an instant can you imagine just seeing that 300,000 people bow down except for three that takes a lot of Courage 300,000 people bow down three guys stand up we learned in chapter two that they already bowed down before the King of Kings so they won't bow down before the false King you're going to bow down you're either going to bow down to a false king or a real king that's why the Bible says at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father both on the

earth and under the Earth that ultimately you and I we want to we want to bow down to Jesus and no one and nothing else and these people all bow down now let me ask you this we many of those who bowed down supposed to be Believers in God's people yes it just shows you that sometimes people who say they are believers they will bow down in Babylon once they receive a certain amount of heat or pressure they will compromise their convictions for peace and security instead of the presence of God couple of things I want to say about this number one sometimes to be Godly is to be lonely if you cannot lose a relationship if you cannot have conflict then you cannot worship God number two when you respond to the spirit of Babylon you need to respond by the spirit of God these men are not arrogant they are not contener they are not malicious they don't attack they are humble they are kind they are gracious they have the fruit of the spirit so much so that even those who oppose them still appreciate them and try to spare them but I have good news here's the counterfeit King counterfeit Kingdom counterfeit hell King Jesus our King the real King he has a he has a hotter fire the Bible says that our God is a consuming fire and and the Bible says in Luke 12 Jesus says I tell you my friends see Daniel had his Faithful Friends and Jesus wants you to be his Faithful Friends so he calls you friends I tell you my friends do not fear Those Who Kill the body you're two parts a body and a soul The Body Matters the soul really matters because one day life in the body ends and life in the soul continues Jesus sayso not fear Those Who Kill the body and after that have nothing more they can do they can't touch your soul but I will warn you whom to fear fear Him who after he has killed has authority to cast into hell yes I tell you fear him what he's saying is the real King rules over body and soul the counterfeit Kings and kingdoms all they can do is affect the body they have no access to the soul it's promised in Daniel 12:2 that multitudes that sleep in the dust of the Earth shall arise some to everlasting life some to Everlasting death the point is when Jesus comes back you will get your body back and your soul back he rules over both so don't don't fear primarily those who can only affect the body because Jesus has you body and soul see this is the hope of the believer that's why the Bible says to live as Christ to die is gain that Jesus rules over all of it so how do they overcome this tremendous fear of punishment by the fear of the Lord the Bible says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom if you don't have fear of the Lord eventually your fear will cause you to bow down to someone or something other than the Lord they maintained a fear of the Lord so they were Fearless in the face of persecution and ultimately all of this is pressing and pushing to where they need to choose their King and they need to choose their Kingdom Daniel 3:16 through 23 Shadrach Meshach and Abednego answered and said to the king oh Nebuchadnezzar we have no need to answer you in this matter we told you no we're not negotiating we're not going to have a reversible Jersey and be a believer and a Babylonian depending upon when it is convenient for us right we've made our decision there's no reason to negotiate if this be so our God whom we serve is able to Deliver Us From The Burning fiery furnace and he will deliver us out of your hand oh King but if not be it known to you oh King that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden an image that you have set up here's what they're saying our God can deliver us and even if he doesn't we're still going to worship him see this is this is the heart of the believer God can cure your cancer and if he doesn't worship him God can heal your marriage and if he doesn't worship him God can bring your wayward child home and if he doesn't worship him God can improve your financial condition and if he doesn't worship him what they're saying is our God can do anything but we can't make our god do anything he is Sovereign Lord over all okay how does Nebuchadnezzar respond he was filled with Fury the expression on his face he's got the Angry Eyes the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach mhach and abedo he ordered the furnace heated seven times more than

it usually was heated this just seems weird to me turn it on are you sure yeah more two clicking up to two keep going three we're three we're we're at three they get up to seven oh it's seven seven times hotter let me just say any temperature works right but he's really angry so what he wants is he wants he wants the boiling in his soul to be the burning in their body this is what happens when we pour out wrath on others and he ordered some of the Mighty Men tough guys no [Music] neck dad didn't hug them they go to the gym right tough guys some of you like you make a one of me you don't know right these these were not the valedictorians right these were the inside linebackers at Babylon High those guys he ordered some of the Mighty Men of his army to bind they're going to tie these guys up Shadrach Meshach and abedo and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace go up the hill dump them into the fiery furnace then these men were bound they didn't even take time to undress them he's really upset cloaks tunics hats and there other garments and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace at least when they went to crucify Jesus they they stripped him here they're in such a rush they don't even take time to undress these men because the king's order was urgent and the furnace was overheated the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach mesach and Abednego and these three men Shadrach mesach and Abednego fell bound tied up into the fiery furnace wow have you ever had life go in a way that you didn't want have you ever found yourself in a situation that was your greatest fear and everything was beyond your control those are the moments that you need to worship the most and behind the whole narrative here the issue is worship right the whole issue is worship and let me remind you of worship from God's perspective The Ten Commandments begin in ex Exodus chapter 20 God says I am the Lord your God right you shall have no other gods before me you shall not make for yourself a car carved image or any likeness or anything that is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or the water below you shall not bow down that's worship language to them or serve them for I the Lord am your am a jealous God jealousy can be a bad thing God's jealousy is a good thing jealousy is someone or something has taken my place what God is saying is I love you and I want a relationship with you and if you bring in another God or someone or something else that you value equal or Superior to me it is adultery that is not their place that is not their place God is jealous to have a faithful relationship with you and anyone or anything that takes precedence and priority over that relationship is a problem for him and should be a problem for you and the point of the Ten Commandments is this there's one God worship him alone those are the first two the remaining eight are just applications and implications of the first two if there's only one God and you worship Him you won't worship sex and commit adultery you won't worship your reputation and tell lies you won't worship your possessions and steal money if you obey the first two Commandments you will obey the remaining eight Commandments and it all comes down to worship and worship is who or what is is at the center of your life who or what is on the top of your priority list who or what is your greatest Pursuit and pleasure six things regarding worship number one we don't worship God to get the results we want but to find God's will some people will say I tried Jesus and he didn't work what do you mean well I wanted something and he didn't give it to me we don't worship God to get the results we want we worship God to find his will we worship God to find his will for these men it is the will of God that they go into a fire that was not their will number two we don't choose suffering but we choose God's will even if it includes suffering I'm not telling you choose suffering if Nebuchadnezzar would have came and said I got a Jewish exception Clause you guys can all go on vacation I would tell rackshack and Benny to take the deal go find a hammock you know put an umbrella in your drink and praise the Lord right I mean if you don't have to suffer don't they're not seeking suffer suffering but they're accepting God's will even

when it includes suffering number three if your goal is comfort and ease you will eventually deny your God at some point to walk with the Lord will cause you to choose between comfort and Christ and these men if they bow down they get comfort and ease they get government jobs they eat good food their life is Peaceable everything is great except for their relationship with God and ultimately they sacrifice comfort and ease to worship God number four you and I need to be very clear in our goal our goal is not to win our goal is not to succeed our our goal is not Comfort our goal is to be faithful to Jesus until we see Jesus and we hear Jesus say Well done good and faithful servant and if that means you got to go through hell to get there you go through hell to get there because for these guys this is as close to hell as they will ever be but for Nebuchadnezzar this is as close to Heaven as he will ever be for Nebuchadnezzar all that awaits him is a furnace for these men even if God does not spare them what awaits them is King Jesus on the other side of the Furnace number five someone will always show up in your life and demand that you bow down I'm just telling you there are people that want to be Nebuchadnezzar do what I say otherwise I will pour out my wrath on you I'm going to turn up the heat to pressure you to bow down to me this can be a boss this can be a domineering spouse this can be a bossy bullying boyfriend or girlfriend uh th this can be a cruel older sibling just pick the option and the point is don't bow down except for Jesus what we saw in Chapter 2 they bowed down to worship God so now they can stand up to worship God the question is knowing who to Bow before and who to stand before that ultimately it's fine to to Bow before the Lord Jesus and that gives you the power and courage to stand before those who want to take jesus' place and make you bow down and number six God will deliver you either from Death Or through death when he says when they say our God will deliver us that doesn't mean that we're going to live it means that he's going to Deliver Us from it and somehow do a miracle or he's going to deliver it through us and we die and go to heaven and be with Jesus either way life or death the Deliverance is guaranteed though life and death are open to God's decision so God might get you around it but let me say most of the time in the Bible God Gets You Through It Noah goes through a flood right here Daniel and his friends go through Babylon Jesus goes through the cross that there is an Escapist theology that basically says if times are hard God will get you out of it no God will get you through it is how it works much if not most of the time though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death through it don't get a flight over it have to walk through it God will deliver you from death or God will deliver you through death now what's Happening Here the men get thrown in the fire they're fully clothed there's only one thing that they bring into the fire with them that gets burned up what is it the ropes of Babylon everything that belonged to the Believers was untouched the one thing that belonged to the Babylonians was burned up in the fire a couple of guys did get burned up it was the unbelievers the point is that there is a greater Fire coming in the end and it is the unbelievers who will experience it not the Believers the Babylonians are the one that burn up in the fire and then something awesome happens the real King King Jesus shows up the whole theme and thread of Daniel is getting us to King Jesus and the kingdom of God so we can live Kingdom down the real King shows up Daniel 3 24-30 then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished right throw guys in the furnace and you see him walking around it's a thing right it's a thing he's astonished and Rose up in haste this guy never gets off his throne but this is sort of a shocking moment he declared to his counselors did we not hey guys I did anybody else count three I counted I counted three did was it check the clipboard right was it three could have swore it was three did we not cast three men bound under the fire they answered and said to the king true oh King yes yeah we're all governmental officials we we double checked you know the the oversight committee convened and yeah it was three for sure

they answered and said to the king true king he answered said but I see I see four Dudes in the fire before Nebuchadnezzar got off his throne Jesus got off his throne and Jesus came down and got into it with his people here's what I need you to know Jesus gets into things that nobody wants to get into and he stands with people that nobody wants to stand with okay so the the real king is like who the heck is that that's just Nebuchadnezzar hurting my kids I'm going to come down and save them and show him who the real king is and Nebuchadnezzar is like that's crazy who's the fourth guy some people say what about those that have never heard about the Lord let me tell you God can show up in some extraordinary and Supernatural ways Jesus shows up to Nebuchadnezzar and he still doesn't convert some of you say if Jesus were alive in my lifetime I would be a believer now Jesus has already shown up in your life I'm telling you that and you need to believe you need to believe but I see four men Unbound walking in the midst of the fire and they are not hurt and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the Gods actually you're close sir it is the Son of God his name is it's Jesus then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace he didn't get too close he got about Scottdale in July about that hot he got about that close he's like okay okay this is about all we can endure here I'm going to stay here and because you know when you get older he can't see so he's s looking at like what the what's going on in that fiery furnace he declared Shadrach Meshach and Abednego still bossing people around Servants of the most high God he's not converting he's playing both sides he's reversible Jersey home team away team whichever one's winning that's the one I'm cheering for then Shadrach meach and Abednego came out of the fire the satraps the prefects the governors the king's counselors they all gathered together and saw that the fire had not any power over the bodies of those men the hair on their heads was not singed their cloaks were not harmed no smell of fire had come upon them what how many of you guys have camped you said by the fire what do you smell like Babylon and these guys nothing nothing Nebuchadnezzar answered and that was a good one come on uh Nebuchadnezzar answered and said blessed be the god of Shadrach Meshach and Abednego he wants God to benefit him though he doesn't want to worship Him who has sent his Angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him and set aside the King's Command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any God except their own God therefore I make a decree he's still not merciful any people Nation or language that speaks anything against the god of Shadrach Meshach and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb and their hous is laid in ruin so he's still not you know he's still not Jesus for there is no other God who is able to rescue in this way then the king promoted Shadrach Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon okay this a intense story let me tell you one funny thing and then we'll get serious again you just need a little break okay so it says that the her was not singed give you a story I don't cook for health and safety reasons um okay I believe in Jesus but if I eat everything I cook I'll see him sooner than I was hoping I am I am not a cook but recently one morning I wanted to have an egg so I tried to cook an egg one egg okay and I'm cooking the egg Grace comes downstairs she's like what's that smell I was like I don't know she's like what's burning one egg I said uh I don't know I didn't burn the egg what I notice was I I burned all the fur off my fingers and my hand my my mom's a w my dad's a Chia Pet and I grow a lot of fur somehow in a gas oven I just went to flip an egg and if you could see this is prepubescent Mark and this is post pubescent Mark I probably shouldn't have said it like that but I I burned all the fur off my hand here's what I'm saying I can't cook an egg without in my fur these guys go into an oven or a furnace that can go 2,000 de and nothing you know what that is a miracle some people say I don't believe in miracles because we can't test and retest them by definition that's what a miracle is we're going going to keep throwing people into pizza ovens and see if a miracle

is possible that's why we call it a miracle not a Tuesday it's unusual and it doesn't happen all the time this is a miracle of God okay back to the story today we would criticize these three men oh they got promotions they're working for the Babylonian government oh their lives are great Daniel's like the vice president and they're like his chief counsel oh they've sold out can you imagine the blogosphere in social media today the point is love and serve your nation and be a witness to the love of God and be a good citizen up until the point that you cannot be a good Christian they love the Babylonians and they love Nebuchadnezzar and they want them to know God's love though they do not agree with Babylon and God ultimately promised that he would preserve them in Isaiah 43:2 and 3 says when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned and the flame shall not consume you for I am the Lord God the Holy One of Israel your savior there's a chapter in Hebrews 11 where it gives those who have great faith and it mentions these men it says they quench the power of fire who shows up with them is Jesus this is called a theophany that means god shown or God revealed when God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the garden during the day that's a theophany God shows up Abraham interacts with three men in Genesis 18 and one of them is the Lord whom he worships as God that's Jesus Jacob wrestles all night with the angel of the Lord an angel of the Lord in the Old Testament is an angel the angel of the Lord angel means messenger is Jesus and he wrestles with Jesus all night when people encounter Jesus theophanes in the Old Testament they tend to worship and build memorials saying surely God has visited us here and this is the place of God so this is at the aony now what's interesting Nebuchadnezzar is saying I'm going to rewrite the future there won't be a warrior king of four kingdoms that leads to King Jesus there will be Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar the book concludes chapter 12 Daniel is in his 80s so it goes from his teens to his 80s by that time Daniel will outlive Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon Daniel will outlive Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon and then comes the MEO Persian Kingdom and then comes the Greek Kingdom and then comes the Roman Empire and everything he was seeking to Halt ultimately came to pass as God promised and prophesied and Jesus Christ King of Kings Lord of lords is born under the Roman Empire just as prophesied and that was governed and ruled by the spirit of Babylon and then while Jesus is conducting his ministry Satan who is behind the spirit of Babylon shows up and gives Jesus the Same test of Daniel 3 he shows Jesus in Matthew 4 he says here are all the kingdoms of the world I am the king of them all it will all be yours if Jesus you will do one thing Bow Down and Worship me Bow Down and Worship me Jesus was given two options bow down and worship Satan and Rule as the second in command from the Daniel seat over all the kingdoms of the earth that is the pleasure path or the pain path suffer go to the cross and die a humiliating death so that you can be raised from the dead and seated at the right hand of God the Father ruling and reigning in the kingdom of God God the father and Satan gave him both the same offer second in command worship me Rule the Kingdom this is the pleasure path this is the pain path Jesus like Daniel and his buddies chose the pain path because that was the will of God and what happens then Jesus actually quotes Daniel chapter 3 some people will ask did Daniel actually exist did he write this book Jesus quotes Daniel 3 in Matthew 13:41-43 the son of man you'll get to know him in Daniel 7 it's Jesus favorite title for himself we'll send angels and they will gather out his kingdom all causes of sin and all law Breakers and throw them into the fiery furnace there is a real fiery furnace Jesus talks about hell more than anyone in that place there will be weeping and nashing of teeth then the righteous Will Shine Like the Sun in the Kingdom of their father he who has ears let him hear Jesus tells us that there is a fin fiery fness at the end of time and then Jesus lives without sin and he is constantly opposed and harassed falsely accused by those who were working with the spirit of Babylon under the Roman

government and then Jesus does something for you that is even greater than what he did for these three men what he did for these three men he got into it with them what he did for you is he went alone in your place Jesus doesn't drag us to the Cross to endure the wrath of God they went into the furnace to endure the wrath of Nebuchadnezzar and Jesus stood with them when Jesus Christ went to the Cross to endure the wrath of God he didn't stand with us he stood for us and he endured the full wrath of God he dies he is buried and then just as these men walked out of the fiery furnace so Jesus walked out of his tomb Jesus ascended into heaven where he is ruling and reigning as king of kings Lord of lords coming again to bring a kingdom that never ends in the meantime what does Daniel mean for you it's very curious that Peter Jesus' lead disciple says this in 1 Peter 1 6-7 you have been grieved by various trials let me ask you today what Grieves you and what trial are you in so that the tested genuineness of your faith more precious than gold Nebuchadnezzar's greatest possession was gold for the believer our greatest possession is Faith you cannot take gold with you into the kingdom of God but you will take Faith with you into the kingdom of God you need to know that your faith is more important than your gold more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire he's using the language of Daniel may be found to result in Praise Glory and Honor that is worship and bowing down at the Revelation or second coming of Jesus Christ here's what he says is this just as Nebuchadnezzar and the spirit of Babylon was seeking to destroy these men through some sort of fiery trouble so Satan is going to turn up the heat at times in your life seven times hotter and you will find yourself in some sort of furnace of Affliction have you been there have you been there we've each got our fiery furnace for some of you it's marital Financial for some of you it's spiritual for some of you it is familial we've all got the furnace we're in and you feel it you feel the heat and what he's saying is this that same fire that the enemy wants to use to consume you God will use to purify you and the way that they would purify gold they would heat it up and then take the dross out what he's saying is you have genuine Faith but there's some dross in it there's some Babylon in it there's some flesh in it there's some selfishness in it and sometimes what God allows is a bit of a furnace of Affliction and it purifies our faith and now we know that we know that we know that we know that we can trust in the Lord Jesus and here's the good news whatever fiery furnace you find yourself in Jesus Christ comes to stand with you in it and to purify your faith which is more more precious than gold and I don't know what you're in but sometimes you don't even see Jesus till you're in the furnace sometimes you don't even know that you need Jesus until the heat is turned up and some of you need to know you need to know you need to know he will never leave you he will never forsake you he will be with you always even to the End of the Age even through the fiery furnace so we're going to worship Him amen amen father God thank you for an opportunity to teach the scriptures God thank you that the Bible tells us not just who you are but who we are it doesn't just tell us what happened but what always happened and it shows us behind the scenes why it's happening and ultimately who is ruling over it all Lord God you rule over Generations Nations Empires leaders you rule over individuals Lord God you know every hair on our head and when all is said and done not one of your children will have a single thread sined Lord Jesus we thank you that this is the closest to hell as we will ever be and we pray for those who don't know you that this would not be the closest to Heaven that they would ever be and Lord God I pray right now just comfort and peace of your presence Lord Jesus it is not the absence of trouble but it is the presence of our King that gets us through this Babylon in Jesus good name amen