

NEBUCHADNEZZAR — THE “god” WHO BECAME A BEAST

Daniel 4:28: All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 4:33: The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.



There was a season when the sun had never run its course or flung its rays across the immensity of limitless space to gladden the worlds.

There was an era when no stars sparkled like diamonds in the heavens, for there was no azure in which they might float.

There was a time when no Seraph existed to sing glad parts of music, nor retinue to give Him worship.



God sat upon His throne, forever to be worshipped. The placid clouds are His canopy. The light of His countenance dispels all gloomy darkness. God was. God is from Everlasting to Everlasting. He is God.

It pleased Him to create many hosts of creatures to enjoy Him and His wonderful works of creation. As infinitely as God is above His creation, so are we above the works of our own hands. So, when God made Lucifer, or Nebuchadnezzar, or Pharaoh, is it not consummate impudence that they should, for a moment, exalt themselves above their Creator?

Yet, the arch traitor – the rebel leader, satan – sought to climb to the High Throne of God, only to find himself and his ambition too high for heaven, and too low to escape

divine vengeance. Since that tragic hour when the anointed cherub was cast out like greased lightning, he has sought to establish revolt against God upon the earth.

His many victims were angels. And then – Eve.

Since that never-to-be-forgotten hour when our first parents sold out, man has tried to imitate satan. The creature has sought to match itself to the Almighty God.

Therefore, it has been one of the objects of my Heavenly Father to teach mankind that He is God; and there is none else.



Isaiah 45:5: I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside Me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me:

Isaiah 45:18: For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

Isaiah 45:22: Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Tonight we shall endeavor to show you how God is working and teaching all flesh and blood this lesson. First – that He is God. Second – that He **alone** is Saviour of the world.

When the Philistines set up their man-made God in the idol called Dagon, God taught them a powerful never to be forgotten lesson.

1 Samuel 5:2-4:

2 When the Philistines took the Ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon.

3 And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the Ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again.

4 And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the Ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him.

When Pharaoh set himself as a god, Jehovah took him down a notch or two in a hurry.

The words of Nebuchadnezzar ring out in clear tones of the human heart that is in-



fluenced and empowered by the devil. In the plains of Dura he sets up a huge image over 100' high and about 10' wide. He gathers all his governors, judges, counselors, sheriffs, rulers and captains together to round up the people and meet for a great worship service.

The music would be the key to begin the worship of the great image. Those who failed to worship would be cast into a fiery furnace.

All went well until it was discovered that three Jewish princes would not bow. To them, all worship is not spiritual nor Scriptural. Satan's method is to force and compel — by fear — a worship of disobedience to God's Word. This inescapable devil will try the saints of the Lord to their destruction. It means we must dip deep enough on the rock to stand the storm.

Many who are spineless want to preach or teach the Word. They could not stand the firing line on the front line trenches. It shows what kind of stuff we are made of — how we live when unnoticed by the crowd.

The king looked these boys in the face and said: *"You boys are new around here.*

Do you know what it is all about? I'll give you one more chance. When the music starts, bow to the great image."



Daniel 3:15: Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and Who is that God Who shall deliver you out of my hands?

The devil will create the most comfortable atmosphere to seduce us to sin against Christ. The devil has used music as an opiate to drug thousands today. All worship that is not to the Lord Jesus Christ is of the devil.

Our God is able. Let the power of the Spirit ring these words home to every child of God which came from the mouths of these three children of God.

Daniel 3:16-27:

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God Whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and HE will deliver us out of thine hand, O, king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

“But if not . . . ” This is saying “no” to the devil with a capital “N”. ***I WILL NOT BOW.*** This is the stuff the prophets, apostles, and true saints are made of. Now is the time to take a stand against modernism and worldliness in the churches. You painted up women – Jezebel started this and went to the dogs.

19 Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20 And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.



24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

We may burn, but we won't bow. We are not compromisers. God says if you don't bow, you won't burn. Man says the opposite.

Nebuchadnezzar called for the mightiest men of his army. The devil has great respect for God's children. The men who tried to cast God's children into the furnace were burned. They were not made of the right stuff. They all bowed – but somebody peeked, or else how did he know about the Hebrews being alive and unharmed?

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the Most High God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

Yes, our God is able. When Israel was at the Red Sea, “God was able” to form the cloud at the rear of the marching army of Israelites, as the Angel of the Lord marched to the rear of the hosts to separate the Israelites from Egyptians who were pursuing after them.

What is your fiery furnace? You can stand opposition if God is with you, but you will fall if you are not in touch with Him. God will bring you out of the fiery furnace if you got in right. Praise God.

Nebuchadnezzar thought this would be a great lesson to the people. *“I will take their ashes and spread them over the land as a warning to all men.”*



King Nebuchadnezzar looks into the furnace and sees four men. He questions the attendants. We hear much about the three Hebrew children, but brother – I want to hear more about the Fourth Man. The devil does not want us to get the secret of this great experience, and would crowd Jesus out if he could.

Who is this fourth Man? The Son of God – the Saviour of the world, the Door to the sheepfold, the Light of the world, the Vine, the Bread of life, the Water of life, the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, the Captain of our salvation, the Prince of Peace, the Supplier of every need, and our soon coming King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

They were marked men in their community. Some folks can be loyal when it costs little to be loyal. When the penalty is death, it makes a considerable difference. Some are loyal only when the majority is on their side. The Hebrew children stood alone. Numbers meant nothing to them. They knew they were right.

Joshua and Caleb stood alone with their good report.

Numbers 32:11-12:

11 Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me:

12 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the LORD.

We owe our allegiance to our government . . . or – This will take only a few moments and we can ask God to forgive. Too many compromisers today would reason this way: It is useless to resist the government decree. In Babylon, do as they do. We hold responsible offices and must not throw opportunity away.

Jesus was not outside the fiery furnace. He did not cool it off. He did not throw them in, but he kept them while they were in there. Nebuchadnezzar was astonished, for he threw three bound in, and lo – four are walking around, loose. He makes an astonishing decree after examining them thoroughly.

Daniel 3:29: Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

PROPHECY – ANOTHER IMAGE TO BE SET UP.

Revelation 13:1-2:

1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Years later, the exalted King Nebuchadnezzar proudly utters words which God stopped him with a message from Heaven.

Daniel 4:29-33:

29 At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from Heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will.

33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

And in one hour, he is turned into a beast. The “god” who became a beast was shocking news to all his subjects. Is this not the great Nebuchadnezzar, and what means this beast with man’s head, shaggy hair, and nails like eagle’s claws: It is just a proud monarch driven from his throne by God.



God shall take the wrath of God and make it please Him.

Stalin is next. Lying bleached in the dust are the bones of Mussolini. God is teaching proud England a lesson of humility which has claimed to be the greatest kingdom on earth and impregnable. The smell of decay is evident already. America must learn that He is God. This land cannot go on cursing its Maker, reveling in sin and debauchery.

The church must learn that He is God. The history of the church is that she has forgotten God – forgotten all His benefits. The Church is in the Wilderness – having forgotten God – forgotten all His benefits. The Church is in the wilderness – forgotten God – lost out on the portion of the Promised land.

Daniel had told Nebuchadnezzar:

Daniel 4:27: Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity

You cannot save your proud self. You are powerless; you cannot buy your way in, or talk your way out, of judgment. The Blood of Jesus must be applied to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. God will not allow Himself to be elbowed out of the world

Daniel 4:34-37:

³⁴ And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto Heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honoured Him Who liveth for ever, Whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His Kingdom is from generation to generation:

³⁵ And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and He doeth according to His Will in the army of Heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest Thou?

36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of Heaven, all Whose works are truth, and His ways judgment: and those that walk in pride He is able to abase.

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