

Class 4: Daniel 3, Courage of Faith; Read UTC pp 62b-82, The Constitution & Convention - 2 Outline of Daniel 3

I. The King's Golden Statue

A. The Statute of The Statue

King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue ninety feet tall and nine feet wide and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

B. The Edict

- 1. Then he sent messages to the high officers, officials, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the provincial officials to come to the dedication of the statue he had set up.**
- 2. So all these officials came and stood before the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.**
- 3. Then a herald shouted out,**
 - a. "People of all races and nations and languages, listen to the king's command!**
 - b. When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments, bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue.**
 - c. Anyone who refuses to obey will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."**

II. The Worship of the King's Golden Statue

A. The Worship

So at the sound of the musical instruments, all the people, whatever their race or nation or language, bowed to the ground and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

B. The Informers

- 1. But some of the Chaldeans (clod breakers) went to the king and informed on the Jews.**
- 2. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "Long live the king!"**
 - a. You issued a decree requiring all the people to bow down and worship the gold statue when they hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments.**
 - b. That decree also states that those who refuse to obey must be thrown into a blazing furnace.**
 - c. But there are some Jews--Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego--whom you have put in charge of the province of Babylon.**
 - (1) They pay no attention to you, Your Majesty.**
 - (2) They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up."**

III. The Second Refusal to Worship the King's Golden Statue

A. The Trial

- 1. Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him.**
- 2. When they were brought in, Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up?"**

B. The Second Chance

- 1. I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments.**
- 2. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?"**

C. The Refusal

- 1. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you.**
- 2. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us.**
 - a. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty.**
 - b. But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."**

IV. The King's Rage Against the Jews Who Refused

A. The King's Rage

- 1. Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage.**
- 2. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual.**

B. The Soldiers' Demise

- 1. Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.**
- 2. So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments.**
- 3. And because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames killed the soldiers as they threw the three men in.**
- 4. So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, securely tied, fell into the roaring flames.**

V. The King's Shock At The Jews Who Refused to Die

A. The King is Shocked

- 1. But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?"**
- 2. "Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did," they replied. "Look!"**
- 3. Nebuchadnezzar shouted.**
 - a. "I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed!"**
 - b. And the fourth looks like a god!"**

B. The King Repents

1. Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"
2. So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire.
3. Then the high officers, officials, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them.
 - a. Not a hair on their heads was singed,
 - b. And their clothing was not scorched.
 - c. They didn't even smell of smoke!

VI. The King's Command to Honor the God of the Jews

A. The King Worships God

1. Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!
2. He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him.
3. They defied the king's command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

B. The King's New Decree

1. Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble.
2. There is no other god who can rescue like this!"
3. Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon. (Dan 3:1-30 NLT)

Relations Between States, Full Faith and Credit, Supremacy & 3/5's Ratification: Articles IV – VI

The primary function of government is to protect, preserve and provide for the equilibrium of liberty between all players, favoring and disenfranchising no individual or entity. The courts (judiciary) was intended to be the primary arbitrator of this balance of liberty between states. The following exercise is designed to analyze King Nebuchadnezzar's statute ordering the worship of the statue.

A Test on Relations between entities; Full Faith and Credit and Supremacy.

You are the judiciary responsible for the *Lex Rex* Republican review of King Nebuchadnezzar's *Rex Lex* edict to worship the golden image. The four players in the drama are the King, his obedient governors, the Jews and God. Your job is to overturn the King's edict based upon the record of facts established in Daniel chapter 3. Please answer all questions from the perspective of each person or situation as stated in each question. **You must answer each question in complete sentences.**

Question 1: How did the King view his authority to command worship of his statue? What evidence of fact demonstrates his view of his authority?

Question 2: How did the appointed high officers, officials, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the provincial officials view the King's authority? What evidence of fact demonstrates their view of the King's authority?

Question 3: What action did certain of the Clod-breakers (Chaldeans) take? What did they base their authority on to do this? Did they have jurisdiction? (Why? Why not?) How did the King respond to their asserted jurisdiction?

How does the old phrase of governmental overreach (might makes right) apply here? Comment briefly on what you believe about that phrase. (There is a reverse phrase that says, Right makes Might. What evidence of fact supports both ideas?)

Question 4: The King held a brief trial (inquiry) to establish the facts of the Jews' refusal. On what basis did he hope to persuade the Jews to obey? Did the King believe that he was the supreme law of the land? What facts support your judgment?

Question 5: The United States Constitution requires that one state recognizes, or grants full faith and credit to the public Acts, Records and Judicial proceedings of every other state. While the Jews were not a legal entity of the King's realm, their Jewish background identified and

distinguished them from the more local Clod-Breakers (Chaldeans). As a judge, using the record of facts, explain how the Clod-Breakers denied the full faith and credit of the Jews. Write a short statement that condemns the Clod-Breakers and dictates how they must grant full faith and credit to the Jews in the future.

Question 6: What legal action did the Jews take when commanded to worship the statue? How was it a genuine legal action? What jurisdiction did they have? What power did they have over their jurisdiction? Name at least two things in the record of facts that demonstrates their authority and their power?

Question 7: Article IV section 2 of the United States Constitution entitles citizens of each state to all of the privileges and immunities of the other states. What evidence of facts in Daniel 3 might imply that up to this point, each citizen was afforded the privilege and immunity to worship God according to their former national status? Based upon this doctrine of

immunity, what evidence exists that their actions were indeed immune from the king's new edict to worship the statue?

Question 8: The Supremacy Clause of the Constitution declares that the laws passed by Congress are the supreme law of the land, overriding state laws when in conflict. Obviously, the record of facts in Daniel 3 shows that, except for the three Jews, the admission and subjection to the King as the Supreme Law of the Land. Why did the Jews not agree? What evidence of fact showed that they did believe in Supremacy? To what Supremacy did the Jews ascribe?

Question 9: The King flew into a rage when the Jews refused to bow down and worship the statue. Write a brief analysis of out-of-control-human-anger and how it relates to true authority and the proper expression of anger. Use these verses to support your view and comment on the King's rage in light of them.

VERSES:

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. (Rom 13:1);

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: (Ephesians 4:26);

Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain. (Psalm 76:10)

For the wrath of man works not the righteousness of God. (James 1:20 KJV)

Question 10: Based on the record of facts in Daniel 3, Where does Supreme Authority ultimately rest? What is the only proof that the supreme authority really exists? Does the Supreme Authority have to fully demonstrate His power in the presence of a lesser authority, like the King? If not then, at the place of abuse, when? What does that teach the obedient servant to do? How did the Jews prove their allegiance to the Supreme Authority?

Question 11: In our Constitution, there is a distinct separation of powers between the legislative, administrative and judicial branches. In Daniel 3, the King was all three in power, even though he had many officials to carry out his edicts. Using the record of facts, explain how God demonstrated that He was the Supreme Authority over all rulers. Include in your discussion how God not only overturned the King's verdict as a wicked judge but also how God corrected the erroneous edict against worshiping God like the Jews chose to do. How does that reflect this verse? "The king's heart [is] in the hand of the LORD, [as] the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will." (Proverbs 21:1)