




## Daniel 17 – Cost of Discipleship

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Daniel 3:16-25




### Prologue: Elephant in the Room: Furnace of Fire that **Burns**

- The English, "burning, fiery furnace" misses the emphasis making burn an adjective equal to fire or fiery; in the Hebrew burns or burning is the direct object; it is the entire reason for the furnace of fire – To burn God's people
  - All the people worshipped the image because they had the mark, the asebeia belief system in various forms; this was simply a unification of religions about a commonality: Not God
  - Thousands of Jews were in captivity, hundreds were trained with Daniel and the three companions, thus were in government; they also worshipped: False Jews
  - These three represented True Jews who seek Messiah to come (Dan 1:19, 13:18, 24-43)
- Furnace of Fire that Burns was to force God's faithful to reject God so as to not burn; however, this would have shown them to be not of God and thus condemn them to Lake of Fire that burns for eternity (Dan 9:22, Jn 1:22, Rev 20:11-15)



### Prologue: Gods Surrogate Excuse; Image of Nebuchadnezzar Real Cause

- Satan, father of lies and murder, does not attack the issue directly but indirectly to justify the charges and his violent, indignant response
  - Nebuchadnezzar does not directly accuse these Jews of disrespecting him
  - Nebuchadnezzar accuses them of not worshipping his gods, gods of Babylonian kingdom (Marduk), this would be true of many who were present but worshipped
  - Main issue: not worshipping the golden image which represented him as the embodiment of intercessor between Marduk (Satan) and his people
  - This is clearly the purpose of the image in John's vision: worship of the Antichrist as intercessor between Satan and all peoples; rejection is rebellion against Satan
  - Ungodly (asebeia) music prepares people for worship of Satan via his intercessor: Nebuchadnezzar; the First Citizen (Augustus); Antichrist – all point to Satan



## Prologue: True Challenge Who is (the) God...

- Nebuchadnezzar clearly states the true issue twice, reinforcing his position
  - Nebuchadnezzar claims himself as the source of the image: "image that I have set up; i.e., I am the originator of this image and thus this worships Me"
  - Nebuchadnezzar doubles-down on his position by challenging the God of the Jews saying, "who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" (No One!)
- The Challenge was between gods via their representatives
  - Same as challenge between Pharaoh and Moses
  - Nebuchadnezzar motivated by Daniel's interpretation of his vision; however, his take-home message was an ungodly (asebeia) Self as god
  - True Message: God's kingdom supersedes all kingdoms; even Nebuchadnezzar's



## Time for Honesty

- The dialogue is from three men who speak with one voice showing they are resolute in their resolve to worship God alone
  - These men did not seek open defiance; they were sent for with the express purpose of proving upon their faith
  - The goal of the Chaldeans was to remove them from power; goal of Satan was to break their resolve and denounce God (4:10-21-4)
  - The men spoke honestly to Nebuchadnezzar when they stated that they had no need to answer him; i.e., they could not answer him less than truthfully nor could they expect him to understand their reasoning since he came from idolatry
  - Nebuchadnezzar probably did not experience much honesty



## Answer Does not Depend on Fate

- The three companions' goal was not to escape death
  - Their answer did not depend on what God would or would not do
  - Their answer depended on faithfulness to God and obedience to His Ten Words
  - If God saved them, good; if God did not save them, good
  - It is not a matter of fear or no fear
  - It was faith that whatever occurred would be in God's will; He would be faithful (4:7-11; 1Co 10:13-14)
  - Whatever transpired would be for His Good, and for theirs (4:17-24)
  - Their alternative: save their bodies and lose their souls; i.e., break faith with the Father (4:8-12)

## Furious Face of Hate

- Man's sinful hatred of God shows through the face; sinners fear of God's people in hatred of God whom they cannot kill (Ps 139:14)
- God asked Cain why his face showed hatred; if Cain repented and turned to God he would do well, be saved; he chose murder (Gen 4:7)
- Sinners plot to kill God's people in their hatred of God but their day of accountability is coming when God will reward them to their face (Ps 7:15, 17, 18)
- In their anger Jews killed their Messiah; likewise they killed Stephen who testified against them out of God's word and their history (Ac 7:54-55)
- Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with hatred toward them, and God, that he ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter

## Complete Destruction or Complete Salvation

- Emphasis placed on the very articles of clothing these men wore
  - Bible emphasized complete destruction of all that belonged to these men; i.e., to remove all trace of their impertinent existence
  - Three mighty military men were detoured to throw these men into the furnace of fire that burns which was made exceedingly hot
  - Military men were loyal but destroyed by the intensity of the judgment
- These three men were thrown into the furnace of fire that burns; except, it did not burn **them**
  - When Nebuchadnezzar looked to see the men burned, he was surprised
  - Three men went into the furnace but now there were four
  - Fourth looked different; he looked like a son of the god (Dan 3:24, 26, 27)

## Understanding the Miracle

- As interesting as this miracle is, it is simply a story unless it conveys concepts God wants His people to understand
- Daniel's writings give insight into Revelation; without a knowledge of Old Testament history these events become stories and Revelation remains myth
  - Previously we studied that this image preaged the image of the Beast (Re 13:1-7)
  - We discern the distinction between the True Jews, these men, from the False Jews, those who must have been present but not killed showing they worshipped; they learned nothing from going into Captivity



## Judah's Captivity Caused by Idolatry

- Israel's history filled with idolatry; it was not they that yearned to find God, God who came to them least of all nations so all may learn of Him and live (De 7:8-11)
  - Abraham came out of idolatry (Ab 24:1-2)
  - When God sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt and give them His Law, most of the people reinstated Egyptian Hathor worship (Golden Calf) (Ex 32:1-4; De 10:1-19)
  - Israel longed to be as other nations because they rejected God as King (Isa 44:4)
  - It was idolatry that erased the Northern Kingdom Israel permanently and removed the Southern Kingdom Judah into Babylonian captivity (Is 17:20; 21:1-16)
  - God dealt with Israel as a nation; however, a nation is composed of individuals with whom He also deals individually

## Israel the Harlot Who Became Babylon

- Ezekiel's prophecy of Israel personified it as a girl God finds and later betroths; she plays the strange harlot until God purges then atones for her (Ez 16)
  - Just as Israel wanted a king like other nations, Israel also wanted to worship like other nations: Satan (Is 20:1-12; De 32:17-18; 1Co 10:20)
  - Jerusalem of the Law hates God, His Son and His salvation (Isa 42:2-3)
  - Jerusalem proved this by honoring their forefathers who killed the prophets God sent to warn them of their error and by murdering Messiah (Is 22:1-25; Mt 11:2)
  - Jerusalem continued to kill those who warned her of her idolatry and that God's New Covenant salvation had come: Stephen (Ac 7:54-60)
  - Jerusalem, False Jews, will be the greatest persecutor of True Jews until she is destroyed by the Antichrist; Satan hates her though he uses her (Is 17:14, 15-18; 18:21-28)

## The Three Jews Represent True Jews Killed for Faithfulness

- Three is the number of completion or completeness; these **three** Jews represent those to be killed for their faithfulness in the Great Tribulation
  - Under the altar in Heaven those killed for their faithfulness ask God, "How long before you...avenge our blood on the earth?" They were told to rest until the number to be killed was **complete** (Is 64:1-2)
  - Those who embrace the lie of the Beast will die the Second Death but those who refuse his lies will die but once; then their deeds will follow them into eternity (Is 1:47-52; 26:1-10)
  - These will sing the Song of Moses because they conquered the Beast though they died in the flesh to live eternally with Christ in New Jerusalem (Is 44:1-4; 21:1-7)
  - While the lost do not repent of their idolatries, those whom God has called from every tongue, nation and ethnicity will be saved though they may die (Is 7:1-14; 42:1)

## Four in the Fire: Atonement for Sin – Salvation

- Four in the Bible is the number of judgment or justice; basis of atonement; satisfying God's justice through God **alone**: Ascending Offering (חֲטָאת; 'atd')
- All people are sinners and thus disqualified from atoning for their sin (Ps 51:1-2; Mt 3:28)
- Son of God takes the place of all who are saved leaving them untouched by God's fiery wrath that burns forever (Isa 53:8; Mt 4:3-12)
- Christ on the stouros bore God's wrath alone while man stood apart which is the premise of the Ascending (חֲטָאת; 'atd') Offering (Isa 53:10; Mt 27:45-54; Mk 15:33-41; Lk 23:46)
- These sinners deserved fiery judgment, but Son of God bore their judgment as they trusted His Word evidenced by refusal to worship Satan; this is love (1Jo 3:1-6)
- But the un-numbered False Jews, and Gentiles, who bowed to avoid the flames will find the fiery wrath of God for eternity with their god, Satan (Isa 20:1-18; 2Ts 2:14-18)

## Satan's Ascending Offering–Holocaust: Obtain Jerusalem and Globalization

- Holocaust as a term comes originally from the Hebrew olah meaning Ascending Offering and first practiced by Noah after the Cataclysm (Gen 8:20)
- It entered Greek (holokautos [ὁλόκαυστος]) and thence English; used today in reference to Jewish deaths during WWII; it was a sacrifice of Jews for Jews so that after the war Zionists could obtain Israel which they failed to do after WWI
- God has hidden His True Jews throughout the world and time until He calls them forth (Is 44:1-5; 45:1-7; 48:12-16; 62:1-5)
- Today's Jews are False Jews, though some will be saved (Paul); thus, Satan used all Gentiles to hurt all False Jews, whom he hates, to obtain Israel and thus Jerusalem in which to build his future HQ
- False Jews remain the driving force behind globalization today; Zionists; ACLU; Soros and others even as in the past: Marx; Lenin; Trotsky – **Bowing to Satan's idol**

## Satan at Work in the Dispensation of First Fruits {Church Age}

- Satan remains furiously at work today because he knows his time is determined since Christ died on the stouros (John 21:2-6; 1Co 12:13; 1Pt 1:18)
- Letters to the Churches details how Satan uses false Christians to deceive true Christians and prevent churches from spreading the true Gospel
- History since Christ is primarily a history of false church doctrines influencing wars to keep people enslaved to works; those who teach Christ are persecuted
- Today's Christendom, False Christians, infused with Satanic errors that people beg to hear; embrace the Delusion of Satan rather than God's Truth (1Th 2:13-16; 2Ti 1:10; 4:3-6)
- These fiery trials come upon us so Christ may shine through as light in a dark world; thus, Satan and those enslaved to him reveal themselves so they may once again have opportunity to repent before the judgment (1Pt 4:17; 2Co 6:10; 1Th 5:4-8)