



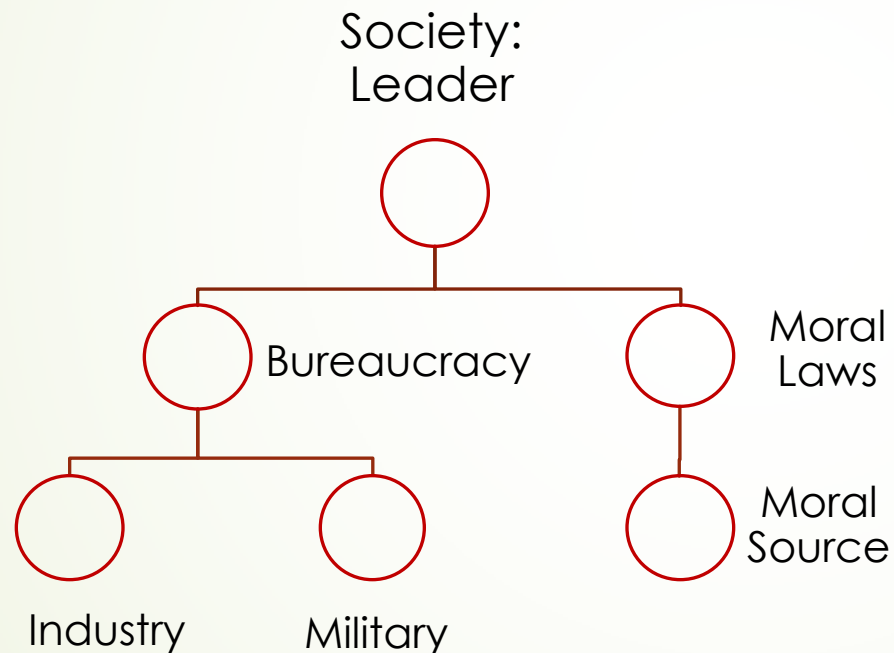
Daniel 16 – Satan's Bosses

Hate Truth

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Daniel 3:8-15

Prologue: Government is Worship:



- Leader focuses people's worship on the government and **its truths**
- Bureaucracy represents elites' {military & industry} social control
- Religion – social moral code defining right and wrong: Man is god {Satan}
- Laws – Translate right and wrong into dos and don'ts: penalties {**Force**}
- *Modern societies claim separation of religion: delusional; laws define government enforcement of morality with bureaucratic regulations*



Prologue: Relationship of Satan, Leader, Prophet

- ▶ Satan behind **all** governments; works through bureaucratic and religious arms; leaders dehumanized to beasts like their master (Ps 73:16-22; Re 13)
 - ▶ Satan, Dragon, Leviathan, stands on shore of the sea calling his two arms of government, Leader – Antichrist and False Prophet (Ge 3:1; Is 27:1; Re 12:9, 17)
 - ▶ Leader and Prophet depicted as beasts showing the degradation of fallen man; from the image of man God originally created, but in the flesh (Ge 1:26-27)
 - ▶ Antichrist is the intercessor bringing people to Leviathan their source of morality
 - ▶ Prophet is the religious arm legitimizing Antichrist's message and focusing people's attention on the image to be worshiped or die (Re 14:10)
 - ▶ *Mark* is philosophical foundation securing people's consent who already reject God; Antichrist will be *marked* like Cain, legitimized by his *mark* (Ro 1:18; Re 13:3, 12, 14)
 - ▶ People willingly accept Antichrist's delusion, it corresponds to their myths (2Th 2:3-12; 2Ti 3:1-5; 4:3-4)



Prologue:

One's *Mark* is One's Moral Source

- ▶ God's Second Word rejects making - worshiping of images (Ex 20:4-6)
 - ▶ This is not an arbitrary rule condemning images but acknowledgement of God's infinity; God cannot be contained by His creation; its extant declares Him God (Ps 19:1-4; 139:7-12; Jn 4:23-24; Ro 1:18-25)
 - ▶ Idols substitute God of creation with created being; man bounded by creation **he** labels infinite, modern man worships creation as idol (Is 14:11-14; Ez 28:11-15)
 - ▶ Man is to worship infinite, creator God revealed in His Word with his whole being controlling his mind and body; metaphor: wear on forehead and right hand (De 6:4-9)
 - ▶ Idol focuses worship substituting Satan's lies, man's philosophies, for God's truth *legitimizing* man's self-worship: Mark of the beast beliefs: forehead & right hand (Ro 1:18-26; Re 13:16)
 - ▶ Moses' bronze serpent made became an idol to be destroyed (Nu 21:4-9; 2Ki 18:4)

Prologue:

Nebuchadnezzar was GREAT – God

- ▶ Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar his empire was head of gold; he paid homage to Daniel's god but erected gold image of himself; he, god(s) & government linked
 - ▶ Whereas Nimrod built a ziggurat of mud brick in a plain; Nebuchadnezzar built a gold overlaid image in a plain for worship {Dura – Dwelling}
 - ▶ Worship of image worships him, his gods and government; rejection seen as rebellion against **him**





Biblical (Dispensational) View of History

Satan: Boss – Force

- ▶ Adam – Used, blamed Woman
- ▶ Cain – Pater Government Force
- ▶ Nimrod – Government & Religion
- ▶ Nebuchadnezzar et al – Rejects God's Kingdom: Worship of Self
- ▶ All modern governments based on religions; wars of righteousness
- ▶ Antichrist – Culmination of Satan's efforts; Satan demands worship

Christ: Leader – Example


- ▶ Promised Messiah via man
- ▶ Messiah intercedes with Mercy
- ▶ Messiah preserves man by Grace
- ▶ Messiah points man to Father rather than to self as life source
- ▶ Messiah humbly works via people sans rebellion vs governments
- ▶ Christ rules by Law {Rod of Iron}; rejected by rebellious sinners



Insiders vs Outsiders: Retribution to Regain Prestige

- ▶ Chaldeans, Nebuchadnezzar's wise men before Daniel patiently waited for opportunity to regain their power; massaged Nebuchadnezzar's ego
 - ▶ Daniel not present though officials from all ethnicities of the Kingdom are commanded to be present and worship; possibly Daniel excused because Nebuchadnezzar respects Daniel's god who revealed his dream: special status
 - ▶ Chaldeans do not directly challenge Daniel; they indirectly challenge Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar via the three Jews Daniel asked the king to appoint
 - ▶ These Jews are painted as primarily subversive to the King, then to the gods
 - ▶ Differences between Three Jews and Jews of Esther: Three Jews looked to God; live or die they rest in God's will – Jews in Esther rely on their works and violence
 - ▶ Does not correlate with today's Jews which are Zionists, socialistic atheists, or Orthodox, of various flavors; both hate Jesus: Mystery Harlot of Babylon culmination of world empires until replaced by direct Satan worship

(Ga 4:24-25; Re 17:9, 15-18)



Influence of *Their* Father

- ▶ The Chaldeans follow the same approach Satan used with Woman (Ge 3:1)
 - ▶ "Did...actually say..."
 - ▶ They use appropriate respectful terms but lay the root of the problem on the king
 - ▶ They remind the king of his decree: When the music signals, all peoples, nations and ethnicities must worship the golden image {Nebuchadnezzar}
 - ▶ Those who refuse are to be forced into the furnace of fire that burns
 - ▶ The Jews Nebuchadnezzar appointed over Babylon, and thus over them to replace them, **are directly disrespecting Nebuchadnezzar**; their claim
 - ▶ Jews also reject the gods by not worshiping golden image; secondary issue giving king excuse to condemn the Jews
 - ▶ Nebuchadnezzar's pricked pride responds accordingly: *Rage to violence*




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 worshiped 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 (He 11:10, 13-16, 39-40)
- ▶ 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 (Mk 8:35; Jn 12:25; Re 20:11-15)



Gods Become 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 worshiping 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 openly pointing to Satan



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 this position by challenging the God of the Jews saying, “who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”
- ▶ The Challenge was between gods and their representatives
 - ▶ Similar to challenge between Pharaoh and God via Moses as intercessor
 - ▶ Nebuchadnezzar motivated by Daniel’s interpretation of his vision; however, his take-away message was placed in an ungodly {asebeia} context: Self as god
 - ▶ True Message: God’s kingdom supersedes **all** kingdoms; even Nebuchadnezzar’s



Salted with Fire

- ▶ Salt an element of Jewish sacrificial system denoting Messiah's trial by fire as sin, though sinless Himself, satisfying the justice and Holiness of God
 - ▶ Salt was to be offered with all grain offerings; representing preserving power of God's word and Spirit (Le 18:19)
 - ▶ Christ's *salt* tested by fire in His daily life and on the stauros proving His sinlessness (Mt 4:1-11; Lk 22:44; Jn 19:30; He 2:14-18)
 - ▶ Christians also salted by fiery trials; sustained by the indwelling Spirit (1Pe 4:12)
 - ▶ Christendom rejects fiery trials to worship their idols, oft via music (2Pe 3:3-4; Jude 10)
 - ▶ Saved *driven* to seek truth in all matters while lost reject truth to embrace lies
- ▶ Choice: Burn now or burn later; i.e., eternally—Choice only made in the Spirit