

STRONGER

Part 3 | All Fall Down

June 15&16, 2013

DANIEL 3:1-7 ESV

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, 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." Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

VERSE 11

"And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace."

VERSE 15

"But If you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

VERSE 17

"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, O king. But if not, be it known to you O king, That we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

WORSHIP = Glorify God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength

IDOL = Anything you seek to give you what only God can give you

IDOLATRY = Believing something is more important than God causing you to focus your heart and imagination upon serving "it" above all other things

- Whatever you worship you will also serve

ROMANS 1:25

"Because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the creator, who is blessed forever."

There is a price to pay for not bowing to the "Images" and "Idols" placed in front of us

1 PETER 4:12-13

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trials when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed."

American Idols

1. Power - Control and ability to define reality
2. Money - Fortune and fame
3. Sexual Freedom - Anything, at any time, with anyone or anything, without any limits
4. Success - We love winners, those who are at the top
5. Beauty
6. Greed
7. Pleasure
8. Social Standing - Do we fit in? Are we like everyone else?

Staying strong enough to overcome:

1 JOHN 5:21

"Little children, keep yourself from idols"

1. Courage

ROMANS 12:1

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is your spiritual worship."

2. Conviction

DANIEL 3:17

"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, O king. But if not, be it known to you O king, That we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

3. Community

- They stayed together, bundled in community.
- They stayed together.... Jesus joined them in the fire. (4th man)

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you ever feel the pressures to “before” some of our cultures idols? If so, which ones?
2. Do you think that our idols are the same as those in other cultures or more sophisticated?
3. Would you be willing to die for your faith as the Hebrew children were? Explain: