

**Background – Daniel Ch. 1&2**

1:1 605BC Daniel dies 533BC (72)

2 God gave Jehoiakim's kingdom to Nebuchadnezzar

6 Children – 12-15 years old!

7 Names changed: Chaldean Name:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Daniel – God is my Judge             | Belteshazzar – Bel (pagan god) protects his life |
| • Hananiah – Yahweh hath been gracious | Shadrach – the command of Alen (moon god)        |
| • Mishael – Who is what El is?         | Meshach – Who is this?                           |
| • Azariah – Yahweh has helped          | Abednego – servant of the god Nabor              |

Trying to replace all Hebrew traces. Daniel stays Daniel throughout the book; friends referred to by new names.

8-10 Purposed – 10 days

15 Looked better

16 Allowed to keep with their diets

17 These 4 given special knowledge and skill; Daniel has more

2:49 Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream; requests his friends be put in high positions

**Daniel Ch. 3 – The Fiery Furnace**

3:1 Nebuchadnezzar erects a statue. 3 score cubits high x 6 cubits wide.

3 x 20 = 60 x 1.5 = 90FT high                  6 x 1.5 = 9FT wide

2, 3 Calls all important people to the dedication of his statue

4 Decree:

5 Whenever they hear the music, they were to bow down and worship this image

6 Consequence: don't bow down -> cast into the fiery furnace

7 Almost everyone obeyed!

8 Chaldeans accused the Jews of not obeying! Jews were foreigners

9 Building up Nebuchadnezzar

12 Finally get to their point – Shadrack, Meshack, & Abednego [SMA] not bowing down. Would be easy to spot – everyone else was bowing down.

13 Nebuchadnezzar is mad!

14 Wants their side of their story

- 16 Confidence
- 17 Note the confidence of these young men in their answer to the king: if they are guilty, God is able and He will deliver them
- 18 Even if God can't deliver them – which He can! – they will not bow down!
- 19 Nebuchadnezzar gets madder – commands the furnace be 7x hotter than normal!  
Idiom: literally – make it as hot as it can be!
- 20 Cast into the furnace!
- 21 Customarily, those accused would be stripped of their clothing. It appears SMA were still wearing their official outfits. Would not look good for them to be in official clothing and being punished.
- 22 So hot – those throwing SMA in were consumed  
Spontaneous combustion in humans occurs at 3000 °F – this is a hot furnace!
- 23 God is preserving SMA in the furnace
- 24 Nebuchadnezzar asks how many were cast into the furnace
- 25 He sees 4  
“Like the Son of God” – OT mention and reference to Jesus  
How did Nebuchadnezzar know this? He knew enough about the God Daniel and SMA served and this is the only logical conclusion.
- 26 Nebuchadnezzar speaks to SMA and they come out
- 27 SMA comes out and they are examined  
No hair burnt  
No smell of smoke on them!
- 28 Nebuchadnezzar praises God!
- 29 Makes decree to worship God  
Remember: Nebuchadnezzar was a pagan king
- 30 SMA promoted
- No more mention of SMA

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