



Where to Draw the Line: Fidelity to Jesus in a Babylonian World

Sunday, October 24, 2021 • Tim McCoy, Lead Pastor
Based on Daniel 3

A Chapter a Day

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, October 24 | Daniel 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday, October 25 | Daniel 9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, October 26 | Daniel 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, October 27 | Daniel 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, October 28 | Daniel 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday, October 29 | Leviticus 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, October 30 | Leviticus 2 |

If you would like to receive a short, daily email to help you better understand and apply the chapter we are reading together each day, please sign up by texting the word **Chapter** to **22828**

3 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. ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵ 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.* ⁶ *And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.*” ⁷ 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. (vv. 1-7, ESV).

1. **Governing authorities, while ordained and established by God (Romans 13:1-7), sometimes _____ and attempt to _____ actions that are displeasing to God.**
2. **The _____ is not a _____ guide for what we should do.**

⁸Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. ⁹They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. ¹¹And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. ¹²There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego*. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” (vv. 8-12, ESV)

3. **When government commands what God forbids or forbids what God commands, we must _____ God.**

The Second Commandment. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. (Exodus 20:4-6, ESV)

- Hebrew midwives refused to kill baby boys (Exodus 1:15-22)
- Daniel refused Darius’ edict to pray only to him (Daniel 6)
- The apostles refused the order to stop teaching in Jesus’ name (Acts 5)

¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men

before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. 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?” (vv. 13-15, ESV)

4. We should expect the _____ to conform to the world to be intense.

The words of Jesus. “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ *If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.* If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.” (John 15:18-21, ESV)

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 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. ¹⁸ 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.” (vv. 16-18, ESV)

5. We should _____ God and have the _____ to obey him – no matter what.

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰ And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹ Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their

tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. ²² Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." ²⁵ He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way." ³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon. (vv. 19-30, ESV)

6. God always _____ our obedience –
sometimes in this life, always in the life to come.

7. The ultimate goal of our obedience is the _____
of God.