

“Prophecies Of Daniel Revealed” Part 3

Pastor Grant Williams October 7, 2015

Last week we ended with a question, Why do apocalyptic books and these writers and prophets in the Bible use symbolism? Why would God have them write about: A goat with 4 horns coming out of his head? A ram with 2 horns and one is bigger than the other? A beast with a body like a leopard, feet like a bear, and mouth like a lion? Why the symbolism, why can't God just say here's the empire and here's the nations?

This week, the answer to the question... why apocalyptic books like the Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation use symbolism.

Why Do Apocalyptic Books Use Symbolism ?

1. God used symbols that people of that day were familiar with.

It is very important that you understand that we use symbolism as well today. When we use the seal of or an image of an eagle we think of the United States.



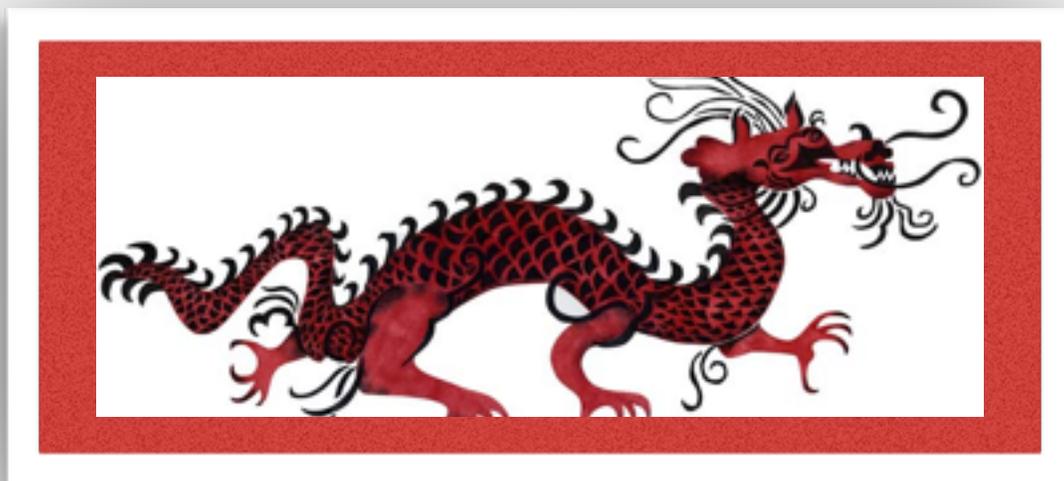
When we see a bear, we think of Russia...



When you think of a lion you think of Britain and England - when you study history this is all a part of it.



We still use symbolism today in many different things. When you think of China what do you think of? A red dragon or the calendar of a dragon or year of the dragon.



God used symbolism in the Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation that the people were familiar with in that day.

Why Do Apocalyptic Books Use Symbolism ?

2. The nature of the animals matched the nature of the king or kingdom it represented.

For instance, if you have a leopard, it represents Alexander the Great's kingdom in Greece. A leopard is extremely fast and Alexander conquered the known world starting from the time he was in his early twenties until the time he was 32. He was very quick in his conquering. So, once again, God uses the nature of the animals by matching them with the nature of the king or kingdom it represented.



Here's the third reason symbolism is used...

Why Do Apocalyptic Books Use Symbolism ?

3. God wants you to search out scripture for the interpretation.

God wants you and I to search out the truth. He wants us to search out the mystery of it because it is the order of a king to search out secrets. The reason God uses symbolism is if you know the scripture, the symbol will interpret itself.

As an example, if I say serpent, what does it represent? Anyone who has studied the Bible knows that the serpent represents satan.

Revelation 12:9 King James Version

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:9 Amplified Bible

9 And the huge dragon was cast down and out—that age-old serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, he who is the seducer (deceiver) of all humanity the world over; he was forced out and down to the earth, and his angels were flung out along with him.

If I say dove, what does it represent? A dove represents the Holy Spirit as we see when Jesus was baptized.

Matthew 3:16 King James Version

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Matthew 3:16 Amplified Bible

16 And when Jesus was baptized, He went up at once out of the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he [John] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him.

A symbol is known by the Bible itself. The Bible will interpret a symbol. The interesting thing about the symbolism in the Bible is this, it's a "most of the time, but not always"... here's an example.

A lamb represents Christ going all the way back to Exodus Chapter 12. But, in the book of Revelation where the word lamb is used 27 times, there is one time in Revelation 13 where it doesn't actually represent Christ. The word lamb represents the false prophet.

Revelation 13:11 King James Version

11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

Revelation 13:11 Amplified Bible

11 Then I saw another beast rising up out of the land [itself]; he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke (roared) like a dragon.

Normally a symbol will maintain its symbolism from the very beginning of the Bible all the way through the end of the Bible. What is interesting about Biblical symbolism is that you don't have to go outside of the Bible to interpret what these symbols, what these animals, what these beasts and the apocalyptic books actually represent.

Why Do Apocalyptic Books Use Symbolism ?

4. Symbolism can hide the meaning to protect the writer and symbolism itself.

Let me give you an example.. why did John conceal the idea the Mystery Babylon and Rome in Revelation Chapter 17 and 18?

Revelation 17:10-11 King James Version

10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

Revelation 17:18 King James Version

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Revelation 17:10-11 Amplified Bible

10 And they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one still exists [and is reigning]; the other [the seventh] has not yet appeared, and when he does arrive, he must stay [but] a brief time.

11 And as for the beast that [once] was, but now is no more, he [himself] is an eighth ruler (king, head), but he is of the seven and belongs to them, and he goes to perdition.

Revelation 17:18 Amplified Bible

18 And the woman that you saw is herself the great city which dominates and controls the rulers and the leaders of the earth.

The city ruling over the great kings of the earth or Mystery Babylon - they all know it's Rome. ***Note: The government of Mystery Babylon will be in the Iraq/Syria/Iran area and the religion of Mystery Babylon will be set in Rome - 7th Empire.*** So, why did John conceal this idea or prophecy by calling it Mystery Babylon ?

Because among the Jews, they would veil the name of Rome by using the name Babylon. The reason why they would do this is because the Babylonians and the Romans both destroyed Jerusalem and they both destroyed the Temple. In addition, they both took the treasures, they both took the Jewish people

captive, and both temples by Babylon and in Rome were destroyed on the 9th of Av on the Jewish calendar.

The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. and John wrote the book of Revelation about 25 years later. So, when talking about Rome, he could never have used the word “**Rome**”. John could never predict that “**Rome**” would be destroyed in print.

The reason why is the book or scroll which is Revelation would have never been allowed to be taken off of the Isle of Patmos after the Emperor Domitian died and John was released. The book of Revelation would’ve been considered a political scroll which was antagonistic towards Rome. Rome would've burned and destroyed it.



The Emperor Domitian banished John the Revelator to this Isle of Patmos (Revelation 1:9-10), A.D. 95. He was Roman Emperor from 81 AD to 96 AD. Domitian was the third and last emperor of the Flavian Dynasty. Domitian's youth and early career were largely spent in the shadow of his brother Titus, who gained military renown during the First Jewish–Roman War.



The point is, God had to veil the truth of what was going to happen in the future in symbolism so it could be searched out by prophets, wise men, and the Bible scholars of today to know exactly what it meant.

We need to understand that there is a reason that God used symbolism because the ancient empires in Daniel's day were very much aware of symbols. Today we would call it almost mythology. The culture and governments were full of symbolism, it was part of their everyday lives.

God didn't use it to promote mythology or false religion, but He used it because the people of that day would be familiar with those symbols.

In the setting of Daniel, Babylon is the first major empire of Bible prophecy. It was the first empire to destroy Jerusalem, destroy the temple and take the Jewish people captive.

The destruction of the Temple had been predicted by the prophet Isaiah long before it ever happened. King Hezekiah was sick and he showed the Babylonians all the treasures of the temple. God healed him and the Babylonians came to visit him.

But instead of saying thank you and God bless you, he showed them all the secret things of the temple. When he did that, Isaiah 39:6-7 predicted that the temple was going to be destroyed.

Isaiah 39:6-7 King James Version

6 Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the Lord.

7 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

Isaiah 39:6-7 Amplified Bible

6 Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and that which your predecessors have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the Lord.

7 And some of your own sons who are born to you shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

Many people have asked why did God send judgement to Israel by using the Babylonians? Here's what the Bible says...

Israel was not keeping it's sabbaths. In Leviticus Chapter 25, every 7th year and every 49 years the land was to rest for an entire year. So on the 7th year and every 50th year, this is where you get the jubilee cycles.

Israel did not let the land enjoy it's sabbath...

2 Chronicles 36:17-21 King James Version

17 Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

18 And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon.

19 And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

20 And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:

21 To fulfil the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

2 Chronicles 36:17-21 Amplified Bible

17 Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or hoary-headed; He gave them all into his hand.

18 And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the Lord's house, of the king, and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon.

19 And they burned God's house and broke down Jerusalem's wall and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its choice vessels.

20 Those who had escaped from the sword he took away to Babylon, where they were servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia was established there,

21 To fulfill the Lord's word by Jeremiah, till the land had enjoyed its sabbaths; for as long as it lay desolate it kept sabbath to fulfill seventy years.

Because of this, Jeremiah said you are going to go into 70 years of captivity where you are not going to be plowing or living in the land. The land is going to rest for 70 years.

Jeremiah 25:11 King James Version

11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jeremiah 25:11 Amplified Bible

11 And this whole land shall be a waste and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon [a]seventy years.

The reason for 70 years (I believe) is that there were 10 Commandments that Israel was supposed to obey...

Exodus 20:4-17 King James Version

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

13 Thou shalt not kill.

14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

15 Thou shalt not steal.

16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Exodus 20:4-17 Amplified Bible

4 You shall not make yourself any graven image [to worship it] or any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

5 You shall not bow down yourself to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me,

6 But showing mercy and steadfast love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

7 You shall not use or repeat the name of the Lord your God in vain [that is, lightly or frivolously, in false affirmations or profanely]; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

8 [Earnestly] remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy (withdrawn from common employment and dedicated to God).

9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

10 But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, your daughter, your manservant, your maidservant, your domestic animals, or the sojourner within your gates.

11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it [set it apart for His purposes].

12 Regard (treat with honor, due obedience, and courtesy) your father and mother, that your days may be long in the land the Lord your God gives you.

13 You shall not commit murder.

14 You shall not commit [a]adultery.

15 You shall not steal.

16 You shall not witness falsely against your neighbor.

17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house, your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.

The Bible tell us that if Israel disobeyed God, they would be punished 7 times.

Leviticus 26:18 King James Version

18 And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

Leviticus 26:21 King James Version

21 And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.

Leviticus 26:24 King James Version

24 Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.

So, if there's 10 Commandments that you break and get punished 7 times, that is where the 70 years comes in.

Now in 2 Chronicles 36:20-21 it says...

2 Chronicles 36:20-21 King James Version

20 And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:

21 To fulfil the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

2 Chronicles 36:20-21 Amplified Bible

20 Those who had escaped from the sword he took away to Babylon, where they were servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia was established there,

21 To fulfill the Lord's word by Jeremiah, till the land had enjoyed its sabbaths; for as long as it lay desolate it kept sabbath to fulfill seventy years.

Jeremiah 27:6 King James Version

6 And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him.

Jeremiah 27:6 Amplified Bible

6 And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant and instrument, and the beasts of the field also I have given him to serve him.

What happened was, the Jewish people did not obey the law of Jubilee or of letting the land rest. So, God took them out of the land in order for the land to rest. I know this sounds odd for God to allow that to happen but they did break a major commandment of God. The punishment was 70 years.

King Nebuchadnezzar was the King of Babylon during this time and there were 3 separate invasions. The estimated date of the first invasion that came into Israel in the area of Judea was 606 B.C.

Then, there was an invasion in 598 B.C., and the third invasion was 586 B.C. It was this last invasion where Jerusalem was taken, the Temple was burnt, and the treasures were brought out and taken into Babylon. This is when the Jewish captives were taken back to the city of Babylon.

King Nebuchadnezzar, in the last invasion, got all of the wealth from the gold and silver vessels that were in the Temple in Jerusalem.

2 Kings 24:13 King James Version

13 And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the Lord, as the Lord had said.

2 Kings 24:13 Amplified Bible

13 He carried off all the treasures of the Lord's house and the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold in the temple of the Lord, which Solomon king of Israel had made, as the Lord had said.

2 Chronicles 36:10 King James Version

10 And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the Lord, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 36:10 Amplified Bible

10 In the spring, King Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought him to Babylon, with the precious vessels of the house of the Lord, and made Zedekiah the [boy's] brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.

Then, King Nebuchadnezzar sought out some strong, bright young men to teach them the Chaldean language so they could communicate to the Jewish people. This is where we read this story in Daniel Chapter 1 about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who were sitting at the king's table.

Daniel 1:3 King James Version

3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;

Daniel 1:3 Amplified Bible

3 And the [Babylonian] king told Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring in some of the children of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility—

The King wanted to train them in the ways of Chaldea and Babylon so they could communicate it to the Jewish elders.

Remember, the Babylonians spoke one language and the Jews spoke Hebrew. So you are taking all of these people into captivity that can't even speak the language of the land and it was chaos.

In the book of Daniel (he is the central character) the name Daniel means: God Is Judge. He was a teenager when he was carried away by King Nebuchadnezzar into Babylon.

Daniel 1:3 King James Version

3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;

Daniel 1:6 King James Version

6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

This means that Daniel was of the royal seed of the king. He was very intelligent and the king wanted to use him and several others who were very intelligent Hebrews boys to teach them the Chaldean language to communicate to the Jewish people. This was just one of the reasons for training them.

Note: Daniel may have been a eunuch, because it was predicted in Isaiah 39:7 that the sons of Judah will be eunuchs in the king's palace.

1828 Webster's Dictionary definition of eunuch: A male of the human species castrated.

Isaiah 39:7 King James Version

7 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

Isaiah 39:7 Amplified Bible

7 And some of your own sons who are born to you shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

We don't have any record in the Bible of Daniel ever marrying. We don't have a record of him in the Bible ever having any children. So it is possible that he completely dedicated himself to God, to be a servant unto God, to the work of God as a servant to the most High God the entire time he was in Babylon.

Daniel had 3 friends and they were trained for about 3 years...

Daniel 1:5-7 King James Version

5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

Daniel 1:5-7 Amplified Bible

5 And the king assigned for them a daily portion of his own rich and dainty food and of the wine which he drank. They were to be so educated and so nourished for three years that at the end of that time they might stand before the king.

6 Among these were of the children of Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

7 The chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar [the king's attendant], Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

They were sitting at the king's table here and the thing I like about Daniel is he was not a compromiser. When they told him not to pray, he prayed any ways (Daniel 6:7-10). When they told his companions to bow down and worship idols - they refused to bow (Daniel 3:9-27).

Daniel 6:7-10 King James Version

7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Daniel 6:7-10 Amplified Bible

7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the deputies and the satraps, the counselors and the governors, have consulted and agreed that the king should establish a royal statute and make a firm decree that whoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, except of you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.

8 Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be altered.

9 So King Darius signed the writing and the decree.

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house, and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he got down upon his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

Daniel 3:9-27 King James Version

9 They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

10 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

11 *And whoso falleth not down and worshipping, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.*

12 *There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*

13 *Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.*

14 *Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?*

15 *Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?*

16 *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.*

17 *If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.*

18 *But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*

19 *Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego:*

therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20 And he commanded the most mighty men that were in 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 coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

Daniel 3:9-27 Amplified Bible

9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live forever!

10 You, O king, have made a decree that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, dulcimer or bagpipe, and every kind of music shall fall down and worship the golden image,

11 And that whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed and set 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 which you have set up.

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; and these men were brought before the king.

14 [Then] Nebuchadnezzar said to them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image which I have set up?

15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, dulcimer or bagpipe, and every kind of music to fall down and worship the image which I have made, very good. But if you do not worship, you shall be cast at once into the midst of a burning fiery furnace, and who is that god who can deliver you out of my hands?

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, it is not necessary for us to answer you on this point.

17 *If our God Whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.*

18 *But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up!*

19 *Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury and his facial expression was changed [to antagonism] against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Therefore he commanded that the furnace should be heated seven times hotter than it was usually heated.*

20 *And he commanded the strongest men in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

21 *Then these [three] men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics or undergarments, their turbans, and their other clothing, and they were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.*

22 *Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame and sparks from the fire killed those men who handled Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.*

23 *And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the burning fiery furnace.*

24 *Then Nebuchadnezzar the king [saw and] was astounded, and he jumped up and said to his counselors, Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered, True, O king.*

25 *He answered, Behold, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt! And the form of the fourth is like a son of the gods!*

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you servants of the Most High God, come out and come here. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the midst of the fire.

27 And the satraps, the deputies, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered around together and saw these men—that the fire had no power upon their bodies, nor was the hair of their head singed; neither were their garments scorched or changed in color or condition, nor had even the smell of smoke clung to them.

In Daniel chapter 1, when they were at the king's table and they were offered wine and meat sacrificed to idols, he told them I'm not going to eat it.

Daniel 1:5-8 King James Version

5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Daniel 1:5-8 Amplified Bible

5 And the king assigned for them a daily portion of his own rich and dainty food and of the wine which he drank. They were to be so educated and so nourished for three years that at the end of that time they might stand before the king.

6 Among these were of the children of Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

7 The chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar [the king's attendant], Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

8 But Daniel determined in his heart that he would not defile himself by [eating his portion of] the king's rich and dainty food or by [drinking] the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might [be allowed] not to defile himself.

Even though he was in Babylon he would not compromise. People today say, well I'm out here and nobody sees...I'm in this country so I will do what they do so as not to offend or since no one was watching...

Or, no one else works hard so why should I...everyone else does it so who cares... no compromising!! Don't be like the world. You're not apart of this world any longer. You are a new creature in Christ and that old way of thinking and acting is gone.

We will pick this up next time from right here...