

# Daniel 3 - Study Guide

## “Standing Up when all Bow Down”

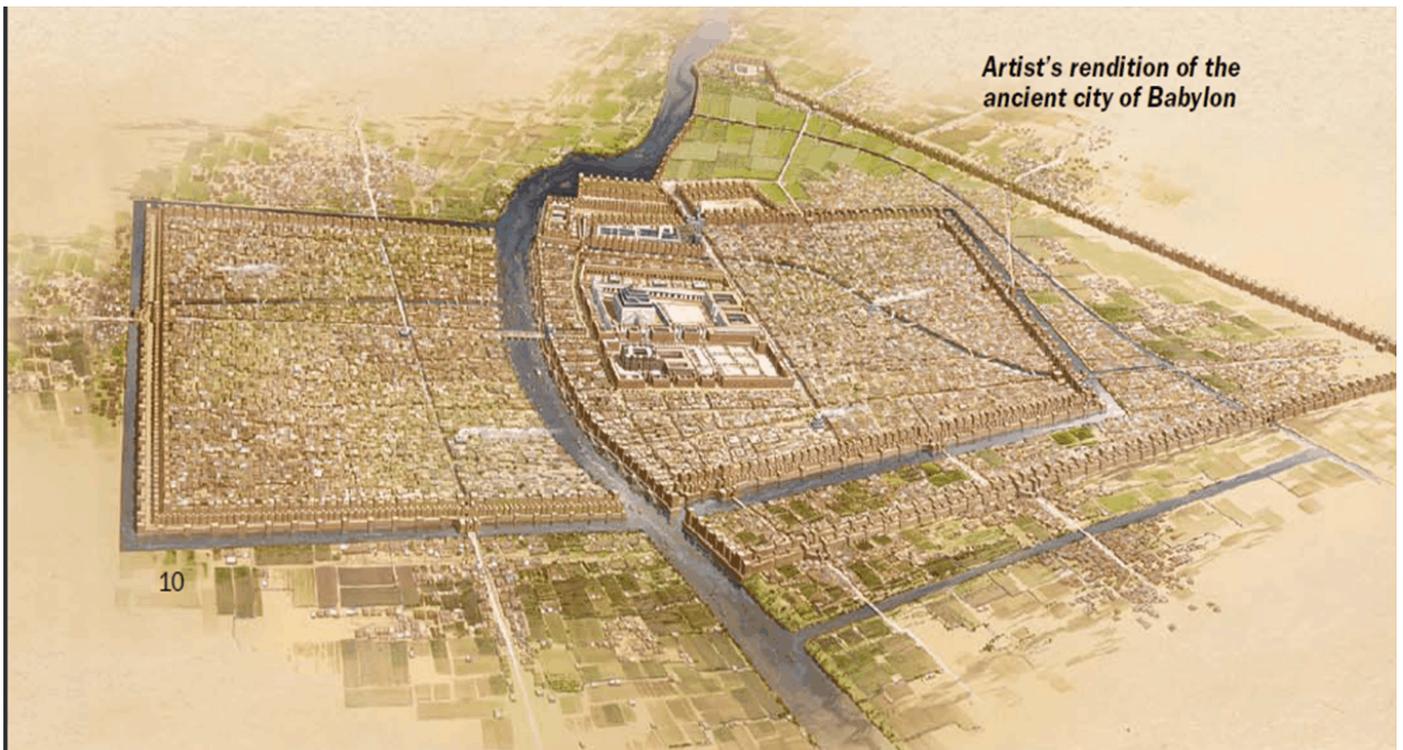
### Scripture Summary

Daniel’s three friends, Hananiah (Shadrach), Michael (Meshach) and Azariah (Abed-Nego) find themselves in a very difficult situation. Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon has called everyone in his kingdom as well as all those in the provinces under his rule to a dedication ceremony for this huge image of gold that he has built and erected. Everyone is given 2 choices; bend down and worship the image or face immediate death. What will Daniel’s three friends do when faced with such a trying situation?

### Basic Outline

1. A giant image (1)
2. Here we come to worship? (3-7)
3. Standing not bowing (8-12)
4. Nebuchadnezzar’s response (13-15)
5. The boldness of Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah (16-18)
6. The fiery furnace (19-25)
7. Servants of the Most High God (26-30)

### Something Helpful



## **Discussion Questions**

1. What captured your attention most from Daniel Chapter 3?
2. Nebuchadnezzar threatened death by being thrown in a fiery furnace for those who did not obey. How is this kind of fear used today?
3. Why didn't the three Jews just bow to the statue of Nebuchadnezzar and tell God that they didn't mean it? Are you ready to take a stand for God no matter what?
4. The three Jews are given a second chance to bow to the statue. Why not use one of these excuses?
  - We will bow down but not actually worship the idol.
  - We will worship it just once and then ask God for forgiveness.
  - The king has absolute power and we must obey him.
  - God will understand.
  - This is a foreign land, so God will forgive us for following its customs.
  - If we're killed, pagans will be given our high positions and won't help the Jews in exile.
5. This is ultimately about worship. Daniel's 3 friends show us that only God is worthy of our worship. How can we follow that example in our lives?

## **Reference Verses:**

### **The stakes**

Exodus 20:1-5 And God spoke all these words, saying: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—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; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God

Hosea 13:4 “Yet I *am* the Lord your God, ever since the land of Egypt, and you shall know no God but Me; For *there is no savior besides Me.*

### **Fiery Trials**

1 Peter 4:12-14 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.