

Daniel 3 & Jeremiah 19 & 20

Mistreatment

Lesson 20

The “diviners” of Babylon claimed to have the ability to tell of future events, though they were seldom accurate. King Nebuchadnezzar believed they had this ability, and after a particularly troublesome dream he ordered them to interpret it (but he refused to tell them what the dream was). When they said that no man could do such a thing nor had any king demanded such a thing, Nebuchadnezzar became furious and ordered all wise men in the kingdom to be executed.

When the Lord revealed the dream and its interpretation to Daniel, he was brought before King Nebuchadnezzar not just to interpret the dream, but also to reveal the one true God. When Daniel presented the dream correctly, Nebuchadnezzar and all the other Babylonians were impressed with the greatness of Daniel’s God.

The purpose of Daniel’s ability to interpret the dream was not to bring glory and honor to Daniel but to the Lord God of Israel.

The Test - Daniel 3

1. After hearing the interpretation of his dream, Nebuchadnezzar decided to make his own statue. From chapter 3 verse 1:
 - What was it made of?

 - What was its size?

 - Where was it placed?
2. Who was invited to the dedication of this statue? (Daniel 3:2)
3. Everyone came to see the magnificent statue. The king’s herald made a proclamation. What command did he give to the people? (Daniel 3:4,5)
4. What was the punishment for failing to obey the king’s command? (Daniel 3:6)
5. So, the music played and all in the vast crowd seemed to comply with the king’s command. But there were some astrologers who came forward. Why? (Daniel 3:8)

6. Why do you think they wanted to do that? (Daniel 1:20; 2:10, 27, 48 & 49)
7. Using skill and tactic they presented their wishes to the king. What did they do first? (Daniel 3:9-11)
8. Then what was their tactic? (Daniel 3:12)
9. They got the reaction they wanted from the king. What do verses 13 and 14 say?
10. Before there was any recorded answer, the king gave them a second chance with a reminder of the consequence if they failed to obey. How did he end his threat? (Daniel 3:15c)
11. Do you think king Nebuchadnezzar was asking a question or making a statement?
12. What was Nebuchadnezzar pressuring Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego to do? (Exodus 20:1-5)
13. Their reply to the king is recorded in verses 16–18. From these verses:
 - What were they sure of?

 - What were they unsure of?
14. What were these young men telling the world by their actions?
15. How did their words affect the king? (Daniel 3:19, 20)

16. What information is given in Daniel 3:21?

17. Why do you think the Bible recorded what they were wearing?

18. The soldiers carried out the king's orders exactly as he had commanded. What happened to the soldiers? (Daniel 3:22)

19. *"And these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace."* The king was watching the whole affair very carefully. Why did he leap to his feet? (Daniel 3:24, 25)

20. What do you think Nebuchadnezzar meant when he said, *"the fourth looks like a son of the gods"*?

21. Nothing like this had ever happened before! Nebuchadnezzar was not sure what to make of it so he got as close to the furnace as he could and shouted to the men. What did he shout? (Daniel 3:26)

22. The three obeyed the king's command. When everyone crowded around them, what did all these witnesses: (Daniel 3:27)
 - See?

 - Smell?

23. Their first encounter with the king had sent him into a rage that had gotten them thrown into the fire. How did this second encounter affect the king? (Daniel 3:28)

24. What new decree did he make at the furnace? (Daniel 3:29)

25. What did it mean for Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego personally? (Daniel 3:30)

Jeremiah's Complaint

36. At this point Jeremiah was not happy about his assignments from the Lord. Still smarting from the stocks and the beating, he poured out his heart to the Lord. What did he say in Jeremiah 20:7 & 8?

37. But then he said what happens to him if he doesn't deliver God's message. How does he describe the feeling? (Jeremiah 20:9)

38. What do you think he meant?

39. How does Jeremiah see his "friends"? (Jeremiah 20:10)

40. Try to imagine what life was like for Jeremiah. Jerusalem was considered impregnable. There was no need to worry; nothing bad could ever happen there. After all, it was the City of David and had the Temple within its walls. Where does Jeremiah say he was able to draw enough strength to continue on? (Jeremiah 20:11-13)

41. Jeremiah's emotions were on a roller coaster ending on the down side. After everything he just said, what did he say he wished for? (Jeremiah 20:14-18 & Jeremiah 1:5)