

/We will now begin the fourth lecture on the book of Daniel. /We will begin with Daniel 2:35.

/Read verse 35. /Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

/The rock that was “cut out” came and smashed the statue. /The “cut out rock” symbolizes Jesus. /It also says that the rock will fill the whole earth. /This symbolizes the believers of Jesus who will fill the whole earth.

/It also means that this world will ultimately be destroyed. /Then Jesus’ kingdom, the kingdom of God, will flourish.

/Verse 36. /”This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.

/Daniel interpreted the dream.

/Verse 37. /You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory;

/Daniel said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “You, O king, are the kings of kings.” /This means that King Nebuchadnezzar will rule over many nations. /This means that he will govern many nations.

/Daniel also said, “The God of heaven.” /This teaches the sovereignty of God. /Nebuchadnezzar is king of Babylon. /Yet, God is the one who gave Nebuchadnezzar the nation of Babylon.

/Thus, the true king of Babylon is our God. /It says, “has given you.” /This refers to God’s absolute sovereignty.

/It’s as if there was a landowner and a tenant. /The landowner temporarily lends the tenant the land, and then receives wages. /Like such, our God is the landowner of all nations.

/The kings of the world are servants alongside tenants. /Therefore, this teaches us that the kings of the world must submit to our God.

/Verse 38. /in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

/Here it says that Nebuchadnezzar is the head of gold. /This means that he is the representative of many nations. /This also means that Babylon is the head of all nations.

/Babylon used a lot of gold. /Thus, Babylon was compared to gold. /Jeremiah 51:7.
/Revelation 18:16. /The nations of this world attack the church. /The nations are humanistic.

/Babylon is the head of all nations that stand against the kingdom of God. /Genesis 10:8-12. /Revelation 17:3-6. /Yet, as it is written in Revelation chapter 18, Babylon will ultimately be destroyed.

/Verse 39. /"After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.

/There will be another kingdom that is inferior to Babylon. /Then there will be another kingdom, one of bronze.

/Verse 40. /Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron-- for iron breaks and smashes everything-- and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.

/The fourth kingdom symbolizes Rome. /This nation is as strong as iron. /This is an extremely strong and heinous nation.

/Verse 41. /Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay.

/It says that Rome will perish and then there will be ten nations. /A part of it will be baked clay, and partly iron.

/This means that its division will be great. /Verse 43 further states that it will be a mixture and will not be united.

/Verse 44. /"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

/God will destroy the nations of the world, and then set up the kingdom of God. /He will set up the kingdom of Jesus.

/Verse 45. /This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands-- a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."

/The "rock cut out" symbolizes Jesus Christ. /This symbolizes the first and second coming of Jesus. /This also means that through Jesus, God will set up his kingdom.

/The rock cut out of a mountain will fill the earth. /1 Peter 2:1. /The kingdom of God will become more and more prosperous. /Jesus began His ministry with twelve disciples. /Then the gospel began to spread.

/The gospel was spread to Jerusalem and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. /Hence, the whole earth is filled with believers of Jesus.

/God's kingdom is made complete through Jesus. /The gospel will have the final victory. /1 Corinthians 15:25. /Matthew 11:5. /Luke 4:18-19.

/Verse 46. /Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him.

/Daniel explained the revelation of God. /Daniel not only told the king his dream, but also interpreted the dream.

/Nebuchadnezzar was shocked. /Then he fell prostrate before Daniel. /He praised God.

/Verse 47. The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery."

/Our God is the King of all kings, /the Lord of lords, /reigns over all kings, /and is a God who reveals the deepest mysteries.

/Verse 48. /Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men.

/Verse 49. /Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.

/The king put Daniel in a high position. /Then Daniel was put in charge of all the wise men. /Then Daniel and his three friends became administrators. /Daniel kept his faith, and thus, received the following blessings.

/First, the king bowed down before Daniel. /This means that the king respected Daniel. /When we keep our faith, those in higher positions than us will respect us as well. /Second, Daniel was put in charge of all the wise men.

/The king put Daniel in a higher position than that of the wise men. /Third, Daniel was rewarded with gifts. /Fourth, Daniel was seated on the royal court.

/Fifth, Daniel's three friends became administrators because of Daniel. /In this way, Daniel became great by keeping his faith. /He became a wise man. /He told the king and

his men about the will of God.

/When we believers keep our faith as Daniel did, God will become greater. /God will receive glory. /Then we believers will become great as well.

/We will continue with the lecture on Daniel chapter 3. /The title is “The Image of Gold.”

/First, the king of Babylon commands people to make and fall down before the image. /Verses 1-5. /Second, those who do not bow down are thrown into a blazing furnace. /Verse 6. /

/Third, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do not bow down to the image. /Verses 7-12. /Fourth, the king becomes furious and demands that they bow down. /Verses 13-15. /Fifth, the faith of the three young men who do not worship the image. /Verses 16-18.

/Sixth, Christ protects the three young men who are thrown into the blazing furnace. /Verses 19-25. /Seventh, the king allows the three young men who kept their faith to come out.

/The king allows the three young men who kept their faith to come out. /Verses 26-27. /Eighth, the king and the whole nation praise God, and the three young men are promoted. /Verses 28-30.

/Read 3:1. /King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

/King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold. /The statue was sixty cubits in height. /One cubit is forty-five centimeters. /Therefore, the sixty cubits is approximately twenty-seven meters. /Twenty-seven meters. /This is a very tall statue. /This was set up on the plain of Dura.

/Verse 2. /He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up.

/The king summoned many people once the statue was set up. /There were the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all other provincial officials. /They all showed up before the image of gold.

/King Nebuchadnezzar set up the image of gold, and performed a ceremony in celebration of the completion of the image. /This shows Nebuchadnezzar’s attempt to strengthen his leadership. /This is his attempt to bring unity in the nation.

/Hence, he ordered that all obey his command. /Today, what does the image of gold represent? /It means that money can become an idol. /Materials can become idols.

/It also means that the nations of the world can become idols. /The nations of the world can become idols, and money can also become an idol. /Nebuchadnezzar wanted to strengthen unity of the nation through the golden image.

/Not only did he want political unity, but also an ideological and religious unity. /He wanted political, religious, and ideological unity.

/This was his way of attempting to unify politicians with his citizens. /The plain of Dura is about ten kilometers from the capital of Babylon. /Therefore, there were many people residing in this area. /The king also said to bow down when the sound of instruments playing were heard.

/Verse 5. /As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

/King Nebuchadnezzar demanded that all bow down before the image of gold at the sound of the horn. /The "horn" is a bent sheep's horn. /Joshua 6:16. /The zither is an instrument similar to a harp.

/The "harp" is a triangular stringed instrument. /It is an instrument made of strings. /Then to "worship" is an act of readiness for worship. /It is an act of worship.

/Therefore, there is a religious aspect in this situation. /Hence, the king is attempting to unite all religions through this image.

/Verse 6. /Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

/Whoever did not fall down and worship the image was to be immediately thrown into a blazing furnace. /This is a furnace to be used for execution.

/The Babylonians executed their people through burning in the fire. /Jeremiah 29:22. /In this way, if believers do not want to worship idols, they must give up their lives.

/Verse 7. /Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

/There were many people of many nations. /There were people who spoke different languages. /Then when the music was heard, all the people fell down to worship the image of gold.

/However, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not bow down. /People of different nations and religions all bow down. /All other religions supported religious syncretism.

/All other religions believe in this and that. /Buddhism today believes in fortune telling and Confucianism, and have become a mixture of this and that. /Similarly, worldly religions support religious syncretism and believe anything they want.

/However, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego only served God. /They kept the second Commandment. /The second Commandment says, “You shall not make for yourself an idol...You shall not bow down to them or worship them.”

/Verse 8. /At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews.

/Some astrologers denounced the Jews, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. /What did the astrologers denounce the three men of? /First, the three men were appointed leaders by the king.

/The astrologers said that the three men received the king’s special attention, yet, they were ungrateful and betrayed the king. /Second, the three men did not worship the king. /The astrologers said that they looked down on the king and did not obey his orders.

/Third, the astrologers said that the three men did not worship the god of the king. /Fourth, the three men did not bow down before the image of gold. /The three friends only served God. /This does not mean that they looked down on the king.

/Yet, people conspired against the three men for not worshiping the image of gold. /The people of the world accused those who kept their faith, and persecuted and killed them.

/Verse 13. /Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king,

/King Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. /Nebuchadnezzar was furious. /He was outraged because he thought the men had disobeyed his orders.

/In verse 14 the king asks, “Is it true?” /He asked if they intentionally did not bow down.

/Verse 15. /Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

/King Nebuchadnezzar said that he would give them one more chance. /He said that he would give them another chance to bow before the image. /Then if they didn’t bow down, they would be thrown into a blazing furnace.

/King Nebuchadnezzar blackmailed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. /This was his strategy. /He was kind and threatening at the same time. /This is the test of the devil.

/The devil offers us carrots to eat, while at the same time he whips us. /The king said he

would be generous and give the men a second chance. /We must not fall into these tests of the devil. /Verse 16 describes the faith of the three men.

/Verse 16. /Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.

/First, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to the king. /They said, "we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter." /Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's faith stated that first, "we do not need to defend ourselves before you."

/This is unchangeable faith. /Their faith did not change whether the king was good to them or not. /The faith of the men who refused to bow before the image is unchangeable faith.

/Their faith was the same in the beginning and later when time had passed. /Their faith was the same. /Ephesians 6:24. /It is unchanging love. /It is unchanging faith.

/Verse 17. /If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king.

/Second, the three men believed that even if they were thrown into a blazing furnace, God would save them. /This is faith in the power of God. /They believed that even if the king threw them into a blazing furnace, God would save them from the fire.

/They believed that God would save them from the burning furnace. /They believed in the power of God. /They also believed that God could save them from the hands of the king. /This is living faith.

/God is the God who made the sun. /God is the God who made ice. /He is in control over the hottest things and over the coldest things. /The omnipotence of God can save his people no matter what difficult situation they may be in.

/God can save his people from a blazing furnace. /God can save his people from the Red Sea. /God can save his people from the valley of the shadow of death.

/They believed that God could save them no matter how great the king's powers seemed. /We sometimes encounter tests that are like fire.

/We can overcome the tests of fire. /1 Peter 1:7. /Isaiah 43:1-5. /God is a God who can save us from the deep waters and from the midst of fire.

/Verse 18. /But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

/The men said, "even if he does not," they will not bow before the statue. /Third, they had faith in saying that even if God did not save them from the furnace, they would not bow

before the image. /This is the faith of martyrs.

/This means that they believed God could save them, but if God did not and it was his will that the three men be martyred, then they would die for God. /The physical body might burn in fire, but the spirit will never die.

/When Jesus is resurrected, the body will be resurrected as well. /This means to obey the Word of God whether the body lives or dies. /This is to plant the Word of God into one's life. /Romans 14:7-8.

/Martyrdom is a glorious road. /2 Corinthians 5:4. /If God doesn't allow us to die, nothing can kill us. /It doesn't matter how strong a furnace is—if God does not allow one to die, then he or she won't.

/Therefore, the three friends meant, “Even if we are martyred, we won't bow down before the image.” /To be martyred means to love God more than oneself. /It means to be led by love for God and follow wherever God may lead. /Song of Songs 4:8. /4:8. /Revelation 14:4. /14:4.

/Martyrdom is to be pulled by the love of our Lord wherever He leads us. /Romans 8:35. /1 John 5:3. /God loves us, and therefore, we must obey God's commands.

/We must consider our spiritual lives more precious than our physical lives. /It is more important for our faith to live than our physical bodies. /Paul was compelled by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem even though he knew that persecutions and sufferings awaited him there. /Acts 20:22.

/This is increasing faith. /This is faith that follows the guidance of the Holy Spirit. /This is living faith. /Philippians 1:21. /Galatians 2:20. /Christ must live. /When we live in this world, we must live for Christ.

/Therefore, if the body dies, the spirit will go to heaven. /We must obey the Lord by saying, “even if he does not.”

/Whether we are in a burning furnace, or in prison, /or face sufferings and illnesses, we must trust the Lord until the end. /Hebrews 11:35. /Jeremiah 29:11.

/Again, we can see three types of faith in Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. /First is unchanging faith. /Second is faith in God's omnipotence. /Third is having the faith of a martyr. /We must learn from their faith.

/Verse 19. /Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual

/King Nebuchadnezzar was furious. /His attitude toward Shadrach, Meshach, and

Abednego changed. /He ordered that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. /Then he threw the men wearing their clothes into the furnace.

/Verse 22. /The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego,

/The furnace was extremely hot. /Hence, the men who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the fire burned and died. /The entrance of the furnace was extremely hot as well.

/This shows that those who harm believers will receive judgment before God. /Those who persecute the church and believers will be punished by God. /The church is God's inheritance. /The three men were thrown into the furnace.

/Verse 24. /Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, O king."

/King Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace and saw that there were four men and not three. /He threw three men into the furnace, but he saw four men.

/Verse 25. /He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

/The three men walked around in the fire but were unharmed. /The men were bound when they were thrown in the fire, but the ropes were untied. /The fourth man looked like a son of the gods. /He looked like a god.

/This is Jesus Christ. /Jesus Christ came to save Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. /The Lord came to protect the three men.

/They were thrown into the fire, but the Lord was with them. /The Lord comforted them and helped them. /Therefore, the valley of the shadow of death became joyful and overflowed with thanksgiving.

/It became a paradise. /Isaiah 43:2. /1 Peter 1:7. /There are times when we face trials like this fire.

/In those times, the Lord will come to us and protect us. /When we keep our faith, the Lord will be with us. /Then He will save us.

/Verse 26. /Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire,

/King Nebuchadnezzar approached the opening of the blazing furnace and told Shadrach,

Meshach, and Abednego to come out. /Nebuchadnezzar referred to God as “the Most High God.”

/Verse 27. /and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

/The three men came out of the fire. /However, the fire did not harm the bodies of the three men. /Not a single hair on their heads was singed. /Their clothes were not scorched. /They did not smell like fire.

/This is the power of God. /God was able to completely save the three men. /The fire was strong enough to devour people, but the men were not harmed because God protected them. /Matthew 10:29-30.

/God untied the ropes that bound them. /Then he did not let their clothes be scorched or even their hair be singed. /This is the power of God.

/Verse 28. /Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

/King Nebuchadnezzar came to know God through Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. / He realized that God is the true God and a living God.

/Then he testified that God had saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego for serving no other gods but God alone.

/Verse 29. /Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."

/Nebuchadnezzar ordered that anyone who said anything that was against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego was to be cut into pieces and killed.

/Verse 30. /Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

/Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego became greater. /Because Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego kept their faith, God was glorified. /The foreign kings submitted to the believers. /Then the believers became greater. /1 Peter 5:6.

/When believers overcome trials, they become great. /When believers give up their physical bodies, God makes them great. /The faith of the three men became visible through the test of the burning furnace. /Then they received glory.

/When we are met with the many trials and tests in our lives, we must overcome them with faith. /We must faithfully keep the commandments. /The three men kept the second commandment. /We must follow after the Word of God more than our bodies.

/Then God will protect us and help us overcome trials. /Then the characters and abilities of believers who keep their faith will become high and noble. /We must not be afraid when we are met with different trials in this world.

/Life and death are in the hands of God. /Therefore, we must believe in the power of God, and faithfully obey the Word of God.

/Here we will conclude the fourth lecture on the book of Daniel. /Thank you.