

DANIEL CHAPTER THREE

TEXT: MATTHEW 28:20

“And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

“Show how faith in God will translate into the preservation and improvement of one’s life”

INTRODUCTION:

The choice is always presented to man: “Obey God or man” (Acts 5:29) and sometimes it will require of you to lay your life on the line to show where your allegiance lies. Has God ever reneged on His promise? The promise made to the Christian in 1 Corinthians 10:13-14 is illustrated by the confidence displayed by the three Jewish youths in the land of Babylon. They may have been in the employ of the king of Babylon but they served the King of Heaven.

DISCUSSION:

1. “IDOLATRY”

- a. The king of Babylon made a god - to what end? To try and immortalize himself? to get his subjects unified in their obedience to him? Did the king now suppose that whatever he dreamt up would or should be brought to reality? Jehovah gave a dream - Satan gave an illusion.
- b. Idolatrous worship is enforced by fear of death (Cf. Hebrews 2:14-15)
- c. “Image of gold” - this is the highest regard that man can give to his invention. Gold is an earthly mineral, therefore the god of gold is also earthbound (Acts 17:29)

2. “DECREE”

- a. Even though the entire kingdom submitted to the king's command, three young Jews threatened them. If one can make a difference, how much more three (Ecclesiastes 4:12)
- b. Not only did the idol need man to invent it, man has to also speak for it and exact vengeance for it (Cf. Isaiah 44:9-20)
- c. The king may enact and enforce laws to govern the people but not laws that would cause people to substitute God with idols. He would soon find out the answer to his question: “And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hand?” His name is Jehovah!

3. “FAITH”

- a. To the three youths, actions would speak louder than words, they would follow wherever and in whatever way Jehovah led them.
- b. “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us...but if not...” Resoluteness despite not knowing all of God’s plans.

- c. Why is the king always in such a hurry to destroy? (Cf. Chapter 2:15) Personality and pride is at the root of all man's haste to prove himself. Consequently he lost some of the mighty men of his army because of his rashness.
- d. What did this prove to his other subjects? You can oppose the king's commands as long as you are willing to pay the price. And the price is not so high if you have the one true and living God to aid you. (Psalm 16:5-11)

4. "DELIVERANCE"

- a. The true God's representative was in the fire "and they are not hurt" as opposed to the image of gold that would melt under similar circumstances!
- b. Therefore even the youths, as long as they obeyed Jehovah was of greater value than the image (Isaiah 40:28-31)
- c. "The fire had not power over the bodies of those men" Cf. 1 Corinthians 3:15b "...yet so as through fire")

5. "BLESSEDNESS"

- a. Why does man need to bless God? Should not God bless man? (Cf. Hebrews 7:7) "Blessed" in this case means to speak well of / honor with the highest accolades possible / bestow praise upon.
- b. "There is no other god who is able to rescue in this way" (Cf. 2 Peter 2:9)
- c. Instead of demotion (and worse extinction) they received promotion because of their trust in God. (Proverbs 3:5-6; 4)

CONCLUSION:

Jesus said: "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mark 8:35)

God proved Himself the one and only true and living God through the steadfast faith on His servants then and still do so today (1 Peter 2:11-12)

Can He depend on you?