

DANIEL  
CHAPTER 3

Vs 1-7      Nebuchadnezzar has a plan and builds an image.  
Chronologically, chapter 3 occurs after chapter 2.  
Dan 3:12

The image of gold is 90 ft High by 90 ft wide.

Why was the image made?

>Possibly to picture the dream that the king had, in which he was the head of gold.

>As to being gold – it may well not have been solid gold, but rather wood overlaid with gold. This was a common practice in Biblical times.

1. The golden altar Ex 39:37-38, was wood overlaid...  
Ex 37:25-26
2. Idols were often made the same way.  
Isa 40:19-20; Jer 10:3-10
3. The end product was much the same as if it were solid gold.

>As Nebuchadnezzar related to the interpretation of his dream...

1. He is the greatest (king of kings) ruler to ever reign.  
Dan 2:37-38
2. It was the true and living God who had placed him there.  
Dan 2:47
3. After dwelling on this – why not make sure the entire world realizes and responds to this truth. (Reminds me of some preachers.)

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>Dura is a generic term which means “a place which is enclosed by a wall.”

1. It is impossible to determine its location at this time.
2. It is obvious that, at the time of Daniel’s writing, his readers knew the location requiring no further clarification. This would argue that the book was written during the time of the Babylonian empire and not at some later date!

Vs 3      The purpose for the dedication was to salute the flag (the symbol that represented the nation) and Nebuchadnezzar was the flag. He was all that his empire need think of. (Similar to rulers like Saddam Hussein placing pictures of himself throughout Iraq.)

NOTE: The official titles given in this verse contain many Persian titles. This would indicate that Daniel was written Toward the end of his life after Babylon fell.

Satrap – administrators of the various provinces  
Prefects – commanders or military chiefs  
Governors – presidents or governors of civil government  
Counselors – chief arbitrators (attorney generals)  
Treasurers – superintendents of the public treasury  
Judges – lawyers  
Magistrates – judges who issued sentences  
Rulers of the provinces – lesser officials

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Again, the titles are those used during the time of the Babylonian empire and not from 100 BC –AD 100. The internal evidence of the Book clearly demonstrates that what is written is before it came to pass and not the product of a later author who wrote, claiming an earlier date.

Vs 4-7 The “herald” (caller) called out for all to prostrate themselves before the image and the “orchestra” played. All were to respond.

Vs 8-12 Daniel’s three companions fail to respond. Note that Daniel is not mentioned as being with them yet he is a high ruler over Babylon. Many assume he must not have been present!

The Chaldeans (wise men, priests, sorcerers) put Nebuchadnezzar on the spot.

These “Hebrew rulers” are publicly mocking your requirement and are, in fact, denying you and all that your kingdom represents.

They are either creating the charge or the king has added the God of Daniel to his other Babylonian gods, a constant problem throughout the history of man.

“Choose you this day, who you will serve” – the God of the Bible or the rest. He can’t be added to any group!

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Vs 13-18

Vs 14 ...makes it clear that, if Nebuchadnezzar had believed in Daniel's God – Dan 2:47, he had not given up the other gods of Babylon. "My God's" means ownership!

He gives the 3 a second chance...they had been serving the king for an extended period of time. They must have been desirable officers of the king or he would surely not have offered them the chance.

Vs 15

"what god is there who can deliver you...  
Again Daniel's God is a revealer of mysteries – Dan 2:47, but power to deliver is another matter.  
(Many believe in the God of the Bible but the Question is-  
"Who do they say that He is?")  
In short, Nebuchadnezzar doesn't think there is such a thing as a God who can stop him!  
God deals with this later – Dan 4:13-17.  
Such arrogance among humans of power is common.  
Isa 36:13-37:7

Vs 16

The three tell the king that their God does not need for them to defend Him. He can defend Himself and if He doesn't, that's His business. (David took the same approach 1 Sam 17:36).  
In David's time, Israel was on the rise. In Daniel's time, she is desolate and exiled, but God's position is the same during both times.

Vs 17-18

The three make the same "position statement" that Job did. Job 13:15

*DANIEL – CHAPTER 3 continued*

Vs 19-23 God is questioned. His children become the object of attack.  
Their answer was honest and true. The natural man hates such an answer. Gen 4:3-8; Heb 11:4; 1 Jn 3:11-12

Vs 24-27 Miraculous Deliverance...How sweet when it happens!!  
Nebuchadnezzar could not believe his eyes.  
1. Where did the fourth man come from?  
2. Instead of being bound, the men are free!  
3. Instead of being in pain, they are walking around in the fire, making no attempt to come out of it.  
4. The fourth man looked like Deity!

It's obvious the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is greater than the gods of Babylon.

Vs 27 All the rulers of Babylon "saw"; they are all now accountable to what they have seen.  
God sees His children differently than He does the remainder of the human race. Isa 43:1-3a Amos 3:2  
Experiences are had by many; some remember for a time, while others refuse to forget. Some stand and watch while others act upon what they hear and see.  
Josh 2:9-11, (example of Rahab James 2:25)

Vs 28-30 The Decree of Nebuchadnezzar  
He not only declares the delivering power of God, but he also commends the three for their unwavering commitment to that God.  
Nebuchadnezzar proclaims that the God of Israel is "god for the Day!" Sounds good but never lasts!

Shadrach and Assoc. continue to prosper.  
Again, Daniel is not mentioned in this narrative.