

## Daniel 3 All Age Service CCH 15MAY22

Reading (p886)- v1-3 and Kate prays that we understand.

Hello I'm King Nebuchadnezzar. King of Babylon. I'd like to tell you my story. **Last week adults heard part 1 of my story: the Dream of the statue- ch 2.** Gold head representing me, then silver, bronze, iron&clay= future kingdoms. **Next week** the adults will hear last part of my story- **the dream of the Tree.** And how God humbled me and I finally and fully followed the true and living God.

But today's story is the story of the **Fiery Furnace**, you might have heard of it before. We're going to read it from Daniel 3 p886 and to act it out in 4 scenes (same scenes as week 1).

**So let's start with scene 1 (Pressure): THE PROUD KING v1-7**

You see the dream that Daniel told you about last week of a statue where just the head was my golden Kingdom. I didn't think much of that, we can do better.

**STATUE-** So I made a new statue. Super tall. 27m high! This time All Gold, all me! (roll up statue!) 10 times taller than wide.

I want everyone to bow down to my god. I'm going to need some helpers.

**MUSICIANS-** need some mood music. Practice. Stop. No laughing. OK maybe it is a bit ridiculous! Maybe that's why Daniel repeats it so many times in his book. Nevermind.

**OFFICIALS-** want everyone to be there. 9 groups. Traffic Wards!

**JEWS-** Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego.

Let's have the full reading again of scene 1. **A PROUD KING.**

(When Kate reads your title, please shout! Yay!)

(When Kate reads your instrument give it a strum/blow/hit. Need a bit of mood music for my worship session).

**<Reading v1-7 READ OUT>.**

Well I wonder how you feel about worshipping my image?

I guess I got a bit proud. I wanted a kingdom that would last forever. I guess I wanted to be like God. Maybe I thought it would hold the kingdom together- to have everyone on the same page. Oh it's fine for people to still worship their own gods, but I want them to bow down to mine as well.

☞ And I guess for you guys it's a bit like this today. People are very happy for you to go to church and be a Christian.

But they don't like it when you disagree with their religion.

Who can tell me what people in your day worship?

**WRITE UP IDOLS>** liberal ideologies, family, money, multifaith, relationships, media, social opinion.

Well there's 3 guys who love their God. And we'll meet them next, but we better sing. Faith not fear.

First \_\_\_\_\_ is going to pray for the persecuted church.

Song: **Faith not Fear.**

## Scene 2 (Priorities): THE FURIOUS KING v8-18

2<sup>nd</sup> scene: FURIOUS KING

Well can I introduce you to these 3. S, M, A. (not GSMA). What do you have there Shadrach? It's Bible.

What does it say in Exodus 20:3,5. <sup>2</sup> "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup> "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God"

Don't know if you noticed earlier, but they didn't bow down. No bottoms in the air when the music played.

You may not have noticed, but this lady did... She's the chief astrologer, and she's not happy with them. Maybe she was already not happy with them when they got the top jobs.

Let's have the story. v8-18. Let's make sure we have the instruments.

**<STORY v8-18 READ OUT>**

Oh it's such a shame. Can't you get with the programme.

I'm not saying that your god is not great- I recognised that in chapter 2 after all Daniel interpreted my dream without even knowing it. Look this is not North Korea where worshippers of your God risk imprisonment and death. (that comes in ch6 with Darius) No I'm tolerant. I'm just asking you to bow down to my GOD TOO! It's like the UK.

It's just going to be really divisive if you guys are the only ones who aren't worshipping this statue. It's not good for public morale. Can't you just the Neb appreciation society for one day, can't you just wave the flag? Just Bow or Burn OK? I'm giving you another chance.

☞ I guess you can relate to this in Huntingdon in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

- It's fine that you are a Christian, but you will come out and get wasted with us this weekend won't you?
- It's fine that you worship Jesus, but will you also worship exam results?
- I'm glad you follow Jesus, but you will also follow all the gossip on social media as well won't you?
- It's fine that you are a Christian minister, but you will say yes to every form of blessing won't you?

Daniel and his friends drew a line at vegetables in chapter 1. His friends drew a line at bowing down in chapter 3. Daniel will draw a line at praying to Darius in chapter 6.

They could have used up their excuses (**EXCUSES x3 rip up**).

But did you see what they said (repeat v16-18). Oh SMA, you are so brave, but so annoying.

Well I was furious. So I threw them in the fiery furnace....

So let's move to scene 3.

### Scene 3 (Protection): THE SHOCKED KING v19-27

Let's get the fiery furnace hotted up.

I need some **SOLDIERS** too.

Let's get that furnace hot. Not lukewarm like your bathwater, or warm like when you need to top up the heating on a chilly morning, or even extra hot like Nando's chilli sauce. I'm talking roasting. White hot. A cauldron. A furnace. I ordered them to make it 7 times hotter than normal. Off the scale

Let's act out the story. <STORY READ OUT v19-27>

Well I was flabbergasted.

**There were 3 miracles I witnessed on that day.**

1) That SMA didn't bow down. They said to themselves, we will obey the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandments even if it kills us.

2) They didn't die! God protected them. They were still willing to obey him if he didn't. But he did.

*And if anyone out there is thinking this is just made up Sunday school stories, this was for real (as all Sunday school stories are). v22. Those soldiers got barbecued themselves as they brought SMA close.*

*v27. The satraps, prefects, governors, royal advisors all got to see their robes, not even a singed hair, or a dressing gown cord.*

3) There was someone in the fire with them. He looked like a divine figure. A God like Man. An angel. I don't know who it was. Maybe you know more than me. A God-Man!?

Anyway it blew me away.

In v15 I asked "what God would be able to rescue you from my hand". And now I see which one. The MOST HIGH GOD, whom S M A serve.

Well it blew me away. Do you know I would never have seen God's power if it wasn't for SMA taking such a bold stance.

**Every time you take a costly stand for Jesus against the world's values you tell the world that God's values are better.**

And he can rescue you. That doesn't mean it he always will **now** (this is a relationship not a contract, some of his later followers were martyred) but he will honour you, and ultimately he will rescue you from death and through death.

Well I think we better sing another Song, about how big God is!

**SONG: Nothings too Big**

but before that \_\_\_\_\_ is going to pray for you all to stand firm.

### Scene 4 (Promotion): THE TRUE KING v28-30

Well let me tell you what I discovered that day.

You can read it on page 888. Verses 28-30

This scene is called the True King.

<READING v28-30>

Who was I to act so proudly?

I didn't get it fully- there was a big period of humbling to come- come back next week.

But if it wasn't for SMA taking a stand I wouldn't have learned what I learned.

So I changed my tune, and in full Nebuchadnezzar style I said people would have their houses demolished if they said anything against this God. No other God can save in this way.

You could say that God brought SMA to this King to show me who the true King is.

It wasn't easy for them to stand up and be counted.

But I'm glad they did.

And they are glad they did.

They got promoted.

**And you will be glad when you stand up for Jesus. It won't be easy. But it will be worth it.**

- Is there a schoolkid that needs to tell the teacher about the bullying going on? **Well remember what God can do and step out in faith!**
- Is there a teenager who needs to say no to their friends? **Well remember what God can do and step out in faith!**
- Is there an adult at work who needs to be known as a Christian? **Well remember what God can do and step out in faith!**  
Is there a minister who sometimes needs to say unpopular things? **Well remember what God can do and step out in faith!**
- Is there a granddad who is going to have to stand up publicly for their faith this week? **Well remember what God can do and step out in faith!**
- Is there a mum who needs to invite friends to the jubilee service? **Well remember what God can do and step out in faith!**

**Will you stand up for Jesus, he is the TRUE KING? It's the obvious thing to do, when you know that Heaven Rules. He's with you in those fiery trials.**

Let's pray.