



DANIEL



Chapter 3

Bow or Burn

Chapter 2 - Review

God is the God of History

History has a Moral Dimension

Power is limited in Tenure

All this comes by Revelation from God

Chapter 1-3



Chap. 1 – World's Customs are Judged

Chap. 2 – World's Philosophy is Judged

Chap. 3 – World's Pride is Judged

Nebuchadnezzar fought against the lesson of Chapter 2

The Daniel 2-Daniel 3 Connection

Daniel 2



Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: ... he removeth kings, and setteth up kings...

vss. 20,21

... Thou [Nebuchadnezzar/ Babylon] art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom...

vss. 38,39

**God says,
Babylon has
an end!**

Daniel 3

Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold...
vs. 1



God's Lessons

Chapter 2 – All
Power is limited
in Time.

Chapter 3 – All
Power is limited
in Reach.

CHAPTER 3 – BREAK DOWN

- 1) **CONSIDER** the fire vs. 1-12
 - Be DIFFERENT
- 2) **COMMITT** the fire vs. 13-18
 - Be DETERMINED
- 3) **CONQUER** the fire vs. 19-30
 - Be DELIVERED

CONSIDER THE FIRE vs. 1-12

- Nebuchadnezzar's image manifested:
 1. Rebellion against God and His revelation.
 2. Vaunted Pride.
 3. Totalitarian Government – One World Religion.
An attempt to undo what God did at the Tower of Babel.
- Often human institutions, such as the State in this case, seek to claim ultimate authority and demand total allegiance, diverting that which rightly belongs to God, and Him only.

CONSIDER THE FIRE vs. 1-12

- Interesting that music was used to engage the crowd in worship of the statue.
- As the Babylon Philharmonic struck up the tune - all manner of instruments were used and the very best of society was there to hear it.
- But it was an appeal to the flesh.

CONSIDER THE FIRE vs. 1-12

- Music can do 2 things:
 1. Encourage the worship of God.
 - *“addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart” Eph. 5:19*
 - *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Col. 3:16*
 2. Eliminate one’s inhibitions.
 - Nebuchadnezzar knew this well.

“Musicians are easy to photograph. They have no inhibitions.”

David Bailey

**CONSIDER
THE FIRE vs.**
1-12

Are you
going to
bow or
burn?

You shall not bow down
yourself to them, nor
serve them: for I the
LORD your God am a
jealous God...

—Exodus 20:5

COMMITT THE FIRE TO GOD vs. 13-18

- The naive way to see this chapter is that the 3 men were saved from the fire and escaped unscathed. They never suffered at all!
- **Or did they?**



COMMITT THE FIRE TO GOD vs. 13-18

- They did suffer! They suffered privately – not seen by men but known by God.
- Much as Mary suffered - privately:
 - What must it have been like for Mary to have the man she loved think she was unfaithful?
- Note the words the 3 use in vs. 17-18:
 - “...our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. **But if not**, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods...”

*In shady, green pastures, so rich and so sweet,
God leads His dear children along;
Where the water's cool flow bathes the weary
one's feet,
God leads His dear children along.*

Refrain:

*Some through the waters, some through the flood,
Some through the fire, but all through the blood;
Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,
In the night season and all the day long.*

George A. Young



Open Doors USA

About 160,000 Christians, worldwide, are martyred for their faith **each year**.

On average, 18 Christians are killed in the world for their decision to follow Jesus Christ **every hour**.

BOW OR BURN



DANIEL 3

CONQUER THE FIRE vs. 19-30

- The Lord chose to deliver these 3 men.
 - Twice they were under the sentence of death.
 - Twice they were miraculously delivered.
 - Twice they were promoted by the king.
- If we read only the 1st half of Daniel, we have a skewed view of God's dealings:
 - God Always Delivers
- But in the 2nd half of the book:
 - Bestial ferocity attacks and overcomes believers!

CONQUER THE FIRE vs. 19-30

“Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.” Heb. 11:35-38

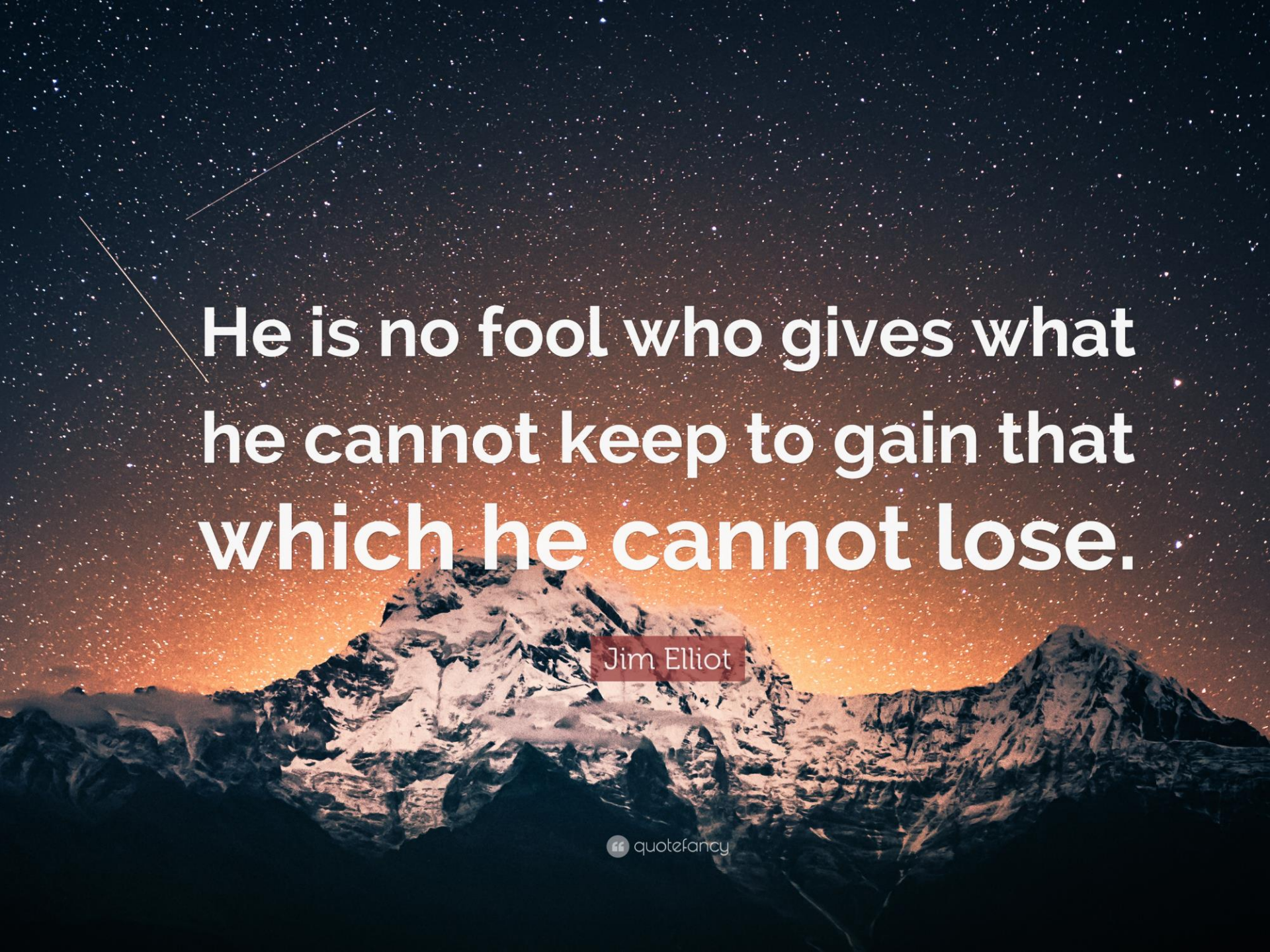
In light of the Fire



Is Life of Absolute Value?

CONQUER THE FIRE vs. 19-30

- Is life of absolute value?
 - Nebuchadnezzar thought so. He thought if he threatened their lives they would bow.
 - But the 3 regarded a higher value system – forgoing this life for obedience to the One who holds eternal life in His hand.



He is no fool who gives what
he cannot keep to gain that
which he cannot lose.

Jim Elliot

CONQUER THE FIRE vs. 19-30

- But God CHOOSE to deliver them by His providence.
- How did he do so? By being in the fire with them!
- Nebuchadnezzar noted 4 in the flames, not 3.
- The 4th was *“like the Son of God”* vs. 25 – or better *“like a son of the gods”*.
 - Nebuchadnezzar did not know who He was, but the 3 men did. He never left their sides until they left the flames!

CONQUER THE FIRE vs. 19-30

- Long before the “*Word became flesh*”; He was with His people in the fire!
- God is ever faithful to His people – in any dispensation.
- But we are privileged, that in the Day of Grace a greater revelation is made:
 - “*No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared Him.*” Jn. 1:18

CONQUER THE FIRE vs. 19-30

- They suffered **BEFORE** the fire but not **IN** the fire!
 - *“And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”*
Luke 12:11-12
- **God does not help us in theoretical situation but in real ones!**

Why were
these 3
men
successful

The 3 **Trusted God**
and **Used Reason**

Secular Christians
Trust Reason and
Use God – Idolatry.

**The
King
Learned**

**Even if you are the
Emperor**

**You have no power
over men who have
sanctified God in
their hearts.**

God's Lessons

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