

Advancing through Testing II

“The Worship Test” Daniel 3

There is no advancing without testing. You will be tested, before, during and after your season of advancing. Testing is called temptation from the satanic side, proving from the divine side and testing from the human side.

No matter what conditions arise, followers of Jesus are called to find an opportunity to advance the kingdom of God in perilous times.

To advance means to accelerate the growth or progress of something or someone, such as to advance a cause.

To advance means to bring or move forward, such as to advance a pawn in chess.

To advance means to raise to a higher rank, such as was advanced from clerk to assistant manager.

The worship test is, to who or in what will you daily and regularly put your trust.

The worship test is, to who or in what you will you give you love and adoration.

The worship test is, to who or in what will you invest your time, treasure, talent, temple, and temperament.

The worship test is, will you love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might and your neighbor as yourself. ^{KJV} **Deuteronomy 6:5**

I

The golden image of the king was possibly from his dream. *Daniel 2*

The image was approximately 90 feet high and 9 feet wide.

The material was gold, symbolic of deity.

The place was Dura a common name in Mesopotamia for any place that was enclosed by mountains or a wall.

The music was to begin the worship to this false God.

The crowd who was called to come, were eight classes of officials to dedicate the image. *Vs 2-3*

KJV Psalm 96:5 For all the gods of the **nations are idols**: but the LORD made the heavens.

KJV Psalm 115:3 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased. ⁴ **Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.** ⁵ They have **mouths**, but they speak not: **eyes** have they, but they see not: ⁶ They have **ears**, but they hear not: **noses** have they, but they smell not: ⁷ They have **hands**, but they handle not: **feet** have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their **throat**. ⁸ **They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.**

Do not make idols.

Do not worship idols.

- Do not bring idols in your house.
- Do not trust in idols.

II

The intent of the king was to see people become subjects and to demonstrate his absolute rule and superiority over all nations he had conquered.

In demanding these officials fall down before the image of gold, Nebuchadnezzar, was demanding a public display of recognition and submission to his absolute authority in the kingdom.

To worship the image indicates that the image had religious as well as political significance. Vs 4-6

The intent was to demand absolute submission to the king politically and religiously.

Babylon wants your political and religious loyalty.

- In perilous times, there is increased pressure to abandon God's standard of having no other God before Him.

III

The internal resolve of three Hebrew youth.

The Hebrew youth did not make the image.

The Hebrew youth decided they would not minister to or bow down to the image.

In perilous times, there is increased pressure to violate God's command, to love Him exclusively.

Babylon wants you to conform to Babylonian ways.

KJV Exodus 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: ⁵ **Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;** ⁶ And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

We always bow and submit our hearts before we submit our heads and bodies.

- What you cannot do is based on your capacity.
- What you will not do is based on your choice.

KJV Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose you** this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

- Our service to the Lord, flows out of our love for the Lord.
- “*Worship is more than the song we sing. Worship includes the life we bring.*”

*Rhema Christian Center
Bishop La Fayette Scales
Saturday & Sunday, March 4 & 5 2023
9:30 a.m.*