

## LESSON TWO

# POWER TO DELIVER

### **A. THE FOUR HEBREW CAPTIVES:**

Apart from Daniel there were three other Hebrew young men who were his companions in the captivity. Their names were Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. According to the words spoken by Isaiah to King Hezekiah they were descendents of Hezekiah and they were made eunuchs. *"And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon" (Isaiah 39:7).*

They were handed over to Ashpenaz, the master of the eunuchs, who had charge over them for three years. In an effort to convert them to the religion and culture of Babylon, Ashpenaz changed their names. In the ancient world names were very important and had great significance. It is profitable that we make a study of these names.

1. DANIEL (God is my judge) was changed to BELTESHAZZAR (Whom Bel Favors).
2. HANANIAH (Beloved of the Lord) changed to SHADRACH (Illumined by the sun god).
3. MISHAEL (Who is as God) was changed to MESHACH (Who is like Venus).
4. AZARIAH (The Lord is my help) was changed to ABEDNEGO (The servant of Nego).

However, Ashpenaz did not succeed in changing the faith of these young men. They remained true to God and were ready to die for their faith. Because of their loyalty to God they were delivered in a miraculous manner from a horrible death.

### **B. POWER TO DELIVER:**

In the historical part of this book we find recorded two incidents revealing God's power to deliver. The three Hebrews and King Darius expressed recognition of this power. The following words expressed the faith of the Hebrew young men: *"Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O King" (Daniel 3:17).* Darius expressed his hope that Daniel's God would deliver him: *"Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee" (Daniel 6:16).*

The stories of God's deliverance of the three Hebrews from the fiery furnace, and Daniel from the den of lions are well known. We need to study both of these stories observing the practical lessons they teach, and the prophetic meaning of each.

### **C. THE FIERY FURNACE: (Daniel Chapter Three). 1.**

#### **HISTORY:**

The third chapter of Daniel is the story of the three Hebrew young men who would not bend, budge, nor burn. They had been faithful servants and had obeyed the law of the land up to the point where it conflicted with the law of God. The threat of a terrible death could not shake their purpose of being true to God.

Nebuchadnezzar was not satisfied in being a great political power; he desired also to control the religion of his day and to make himself an object of worship. He built an image of himself sixty cubits high and six cubits wide. Since a cubit is approximately eighteen inches, the image would be about ninety feet high and nine feet wide. It was erected upon

the Plain of Dura outside the walls of Babylon. The purpose of this undoubtedly was that the largest crowd possible could be accommodated and where the image could be seen for the maximum distance. Travelers approaching Babylon would be able to see the gold shining in the sun at a great distance. It is quite possible that the image was placed on a high platform or a tall pedestal.

Nebuchadnezzar's image was simply a continuation of Babylonianism, which was the system, which started at the Tower of Babel under Nimrod. This is man's attempt to establish a world empire combined with a religious system. Babylonianism began with a tower and will end with an image (Revelation 13). The Prophecy of Daniel deals with the Times of the Gentiles, which begins with an image and ends with an image.

Nebuchadnezzar ordered all the men of influence and authority to assemble for the dedication of his image. At the sound of music they were ordered to bow and worship the image. The three young Hebrew men refused to worship, and when brought before the king refused to compromise. The threat of death did not affect their faith in their God. They were willing to die with unshaken faith.

When thrown into the fire, three spectacular things happened:

- a. Their enemies were slain,
- b. Their fetters were burned off,
- c. Jesus Christ, as a Theophany of God, was in the fire with them.

For the second time Nebuchadnezzar came face to face with the power of the one true God. As a result he recognized that no other God could deliver like this and decreed that nothing could be said against the God of Israel. The three Hebrews were promoted because of their dedication to their faith and convictions.

## 2. PRACTICAL LESSON:

Believers must go through the fiery trial. Let us read I Peter 4:12, "*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.*"

However, if we keep true to our faith the same three results will follow that followed the faith of the three Hebrews. The most important thing to remember is to refuse to bend, nor budge. God will see that we do not burn.

The words, "But if not" are worthy of deep thought. Whether God delivered or not, the three Hebrews would still serve Him and bow down only at a true altar.

The place that music has here is also worthy of consideration. Music has a tremendous power for good or bad. Just as it did upon the Plain of Dura. Satanic music is being used today to cause mankind everywhere to worship the wrong god.

## 3. PROPHETICAL INTERPRETATION:

- a. Nebuchadnezzar is a type of the man of sin who is still to be revealed (II Thessalonians 2:3, Revelation 13).
- b. The image is a type of the image of the beast (Revelation 13:14).
- c. Six is the number of man. 60 x 6 speaks of the number of the beast 666 (Revelation 13:18).
- d. The three Hebrew young men are a type of:
  - i. The Nation of Israel brought through the fires of persecution.

- ii. The 144,000 sealed during the Tribulation (Revelation 7).
- iii. The testimony of deliverance that shall be given during the tribulation.

#### D. THE DEN OF LIONS: (Daniel Chapter Six).

##### 1. HISTORY:

Darius placed one hundred and twenty princes over his kingdom and made Daniel first president. This made Daniel the most powerful man in the kingdom next to Darius himself. This is a tremendous testimony of God's grace. Daniel was a true servant of God and had served for some seventy-two years under heathen pagan kings. Because of his complete dedication to God, he was continually elevated and promoted.

Let us remember that Daniel was now an old man around ninety years old.

Daniel's PRAYER LIFE figures largely in this lesson. Note the phrase, "*as he did aforetime*" (verse 10). The fact that his enemies were plotting to destroy him and the den of lions faced him did not make him pray more or less. Daniel was not one who had a "fox-hole religion" or made "fox-hole prayers." He had: a) Regular periods for prayer; b) Definite object in praying; c) Definite place for prayer; and d) Definite attitude in prayer.

##### 2. PRACTICAL LESSON:

This chapter teaches clearly the value of a) A life of faithfulness and dedication; b) A life of prayer; and c) A life of faith.

Daniel's prayer life is revealed in chapters two and nine as well as in this chapter. We should follow his example and have: a) A definite habit of prayer; b) A prayer closet or a definite place of prayer; c) Specific needs when needs are called out to God; and d) A proper burden in prayer.

Daniel's life teaches the value of faith. His faith in God is revealed clearly by opening his windows toward Jerusalem. This was not an act of presumption but rather an expression of faith. Like all Jews, Daniel had the habit of praying while facing Jerusalem. He did not change because of the threat on his life. His enemies knew his habit and knew that he would not change. Even his enemies who hated him had faith in his faithful habit of prayer. Undoubtedly he is the one mentioned in Hebrews 11:33, "*Who through faith ... stopped the mouth of lions.*"

It is possible for us today to have a testimony like that of Daniel. It is possible to live godly Spirit filled lives where it can be said of each of us: An excellent spirit is found in us (verse 3); Was faithful (verse 4); No error nor fault found in him (verse 4). The statement of verse 5 may also be said of each one of us: "*We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.*"

Let us note well verse 23—Daniel was delivered because "HE BELIEVED IN HIS GOD." "*This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith*" (I John 5:4).

##### 3. PROPHETICAL INTERPRETATION:

Darius demanded worship, homage and prayer from all people. He is a type of the person of Antichrist who will demand that as many as will not worship the image of the beast should be killed (Revelation 13).

Daniel preserved in the den of lions is a type of the 144,000 who are sealed and preserved during the tribulation (Revelation 7:1-4, Revelation 14:1-5).

The enemy destroyed is a type of the judgment of God falling upon the godless nations at the close of the Tribulation, at Armageddon.

## LESSON TWO

### SELF HELP TEST

*Circle the correct word:*

1. One of Daniel's three Hebrew friends was named (JOSEPH, NEBUCHADNEZZAR, MISHAEL).
2. The master of the eunuchs was (ASHPENAZ, AZARIAH, HANANIAH).
3. When Daniel was cast into the Lion's Den, the king was (NEBUCHADNEZZAR, DARIUS, CYRUS).
4. The story of the Three Hebrew Children is recorded in Daniel (5,7,3).
5. Nebuchadnezzar's image was about (30, 60, 90) feet tall.
6. The fourth one in the furnace of fire was like (ELIJAH, SON OF GOD, DAVID).
7. Six is the number of (THE WORLD, GOD, MAN).
8. (DARIUS, JOEL, BELSHAZZAR) made Daniel first President.
9. Daniel's life shows the value of (MONEY, POSITION, FAITHFULNESS).
10. Darius, who demanded worship, homage and prayer is a type of (JESUS, ANTICHRIST, PETER).