

Sermon Notes

Daniel 3-4

The Image as Corporate Worship (Exodus 20; Daniel 3)

The Image as a Symbol (Genesis 3; Romans 1:23-25)

The Image as a Type (Revelation 13)

Revelation 13

First Beast is Antichrist

Rev 13:1a “And *the dragon* stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea,...

Rev 13:8 “All who live on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written since the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slaughtered.”

Second Beast is the False Prophet

Rev 13: 14-18 “And he deceives those who live on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who live on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause all who do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. And he causes all, the small and the great, the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, and *he decrees* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, *either* the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.”

The Name and Number (666) of a man is thus clearly linked to the Image in the book of Revelation and thus supports the same worship as found in Daniel 3.

Revelation 18:2a “And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!”

KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR

Witness & Interaction

Daniel 1:19-20 “And the king talked with them, and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; so they entered the king’s personal service. As for every matter of expertise and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the soothsayer priests *and* conjurers who *were* in all his realm.”

Profession

Daniel 2:46-49 “Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and paid humble respect to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and incense. ⁴⁷ The king responded to Daniel and said, “Your God truly is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of secrets, since you have been able to reveal this secret.” ⁴⁸ Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon, and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. ⁴⁹ And Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon, while Daniel *was* at the king’s court. “

Daniel 3:1a “Nebuchadnezzar the king made a statue of gold, ...Daniel 3:12b _ These men, O king, have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods, nor do they worship the golden statue which you have set up.”

Daniel 3:24-25 “Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up quickly; he said to his counselors, “Was it not three men *that* we threw bound into the middle of the fire?” They replied to the king, “Absolutely, O king.” He responded, “Look! I see four men untied *and* walking about in the middle of the fire unharmed, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of *the* gods!”

Daniel 3:28-30 “Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and rescued His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king’s command, and surrendered their bodies rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or *population of any* language that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses made a rubbish heap, because there is no other god who is able to save in this way.” ³⁰ Then the king made Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego prosperous in the province of Babylon.”

CONFESSION

Daniel 4:1-3 “Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and *populations of all* languages who live in all the earth: “May your peace be great! ² I am pleased to declare the signs and miracles that the Most High God has done for me. How great are His signs and how mighty are His miracles! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation.”

PRIDE (before conversion)

Daniel 4:30 “The king began speaking and was saying, ‘Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the honor of my majesty?’”

HUMILITY (after conversion)

Daniel 4:34-35 “But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom *endures* from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are of no account, But He does according to His will among the army of heaven

And *among* the inhabitants of earth;

And no one can fend off His hand

Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’”

Daniel 4:37 “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just; and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.”