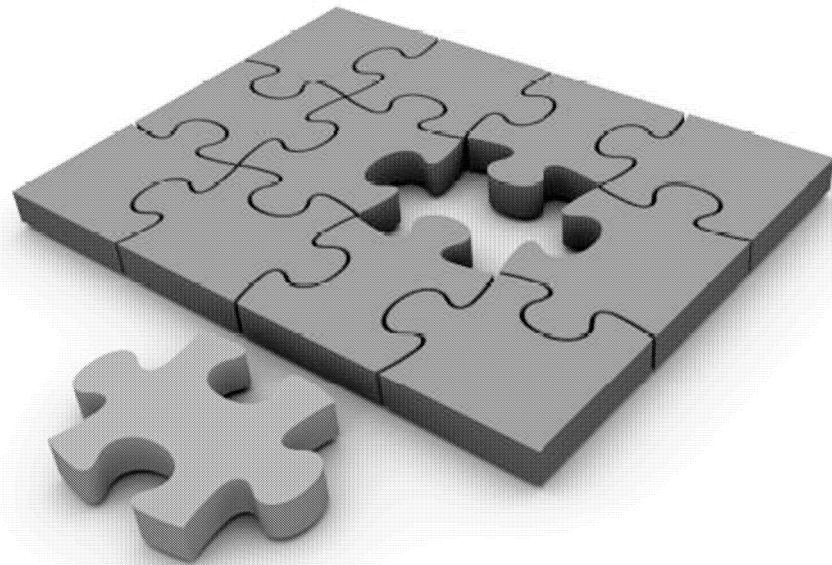


Studies in Daniel – (Study 10) The challenge to God's power

Reading: Daniel 3:8-15



Living a godly life in an ungodly world

In our last study we were presented with what seemed an all-powerful king; leaving the Jewish exiles who were once favoured, in a very vulnerable position.

- 1) What dilemma do Daniel's three friends face as a result of the statue and Nebuchadnezzar's decree? What choices are they given by Nebuchadnezzar?
- 2) We are not told why the 'astrologers' in verse 8 acted as they did? *Looking at verses 8-12 what hints do we get as to their motives?*
- 3) For many, the exile had demonstrated that God has lost His power. *Why would the current events in this chapter on the surface support this assumption?*

Nebuchadnezzar clearly thinks he is controlling events when at the end of verse 15 he declares "Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

- 4) 'Hand' is often a metaphor for power in the Old Testament. *Referring back to chapter 1:2 and chapter 2:37-38, what has the king forgotten? What message is there here for world leaders today?*
- 5) Why didn't the three Jews just bow to the statue of Nebuchadnezzar and tell God that they didn't mean it?
- 6) The three men are given a second chance to bow to the statue. *Why not use one of these excuses?* (1) We will bow down but not actually worship the idol. (2) We will worship it just once and then ask God for forgiveness. (3) The king has absolute power and we must obey him. God will understand. (4) This is a foreign land, so God will forgive us for following its customs. (5) If we're killed, pagans will be given our high positions and won't help the Jews in exile.
- 7) What might you have done if you had lived there?