

**Sovereign God and
A Proud King
Daniel 3**

I. A Proud King - 3:1-6

1. King's Project - A Colossal Statue - 3:1
90 feet tall x 9 feet wide
Made of gold (possibly gold plated)
2. King's Invitation to Dedication - 2-3
Invites all officials in the whole kingdom
3. King's Proclamation - 4-7
At given signal all are to worship this image
When the orchestra begins to play
Fall down and worship this golden image
Perhaps to promote unity in the empire
Also to declare greatness of the king
Severe penalty for those who refuse - 6
Any who refuse will be cast into fiery furnace
When the music sounded all bowed down - 7

II. An Angry King - 8-23

1. Accusation against three Jews - 8-12
May be motivated by jealousy or prejudice
Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego accused
Ones you have just promoted
Don't respect and honor the king
Don't serve your gods or worship this image
2. Anger of the King - 13-15
When his decree is ignored
Gave them opportunity to answer charge
Gave them a second chance to obey
3. Answer of the faithful Hebrews - 16-18
They answer without fear - 16
They answer with confidence in God - 17-18
Confident that God will deliver them
If no deliverance we will not bow down
4. King's authority is challenged - 19-23
His anger turns to violent rage
Heat the furnace 7 times hotter than normal - 19
So hot that King's men were killed - 22
Three Hebrews were cast into the furnace - 23

III. A Powerful God - 3:24-30

1. Sovereign God protects His own - 24-27
Visible presence in midst of the fire - 24, 25
Recognized by the king and those with him
Miraculous preservation in the fire - 26, 27
Their lives are spared in spite of intense heat
Hair not singed, clothes not burned, no smell of fire
Nobles witness God's great power - 27
2. King acknowledges Sovereign God - 28-30
Blesses God of Israel for deliverance - 28

Sent His angel to deliver His servants
Changed the King's word
Delivered so they would not worship any other God

3. King's decree of toleration - 29
Protects Jews in worship of their God
Offenders will be cut in pieces, houses destroyed
Acknowledges God is superior to others - 29
No other god can deliver like this God
4. King promotes three Hebrews - 30
Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-nego honored
With another promotion (note 3:12)

