

Recall – Daniel 2
Revelation through a dream

2 Corinthians 12:7
 "...that I would not become arrogant, a thorn in the flesh was given to me..."



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Daniel 3
 "Nebuchadnezzar the king...
 (King Nebuchadnezzar)

v1, 2(2x's), 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12...

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Daniel 3
 "Nebuchadnezzar the king...
 (King Nebuchadnezzar)

...(he) "set up"...

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Daniel 3
 "Nebuchadnezzar the king...
 made an image of gold..." (3:1)

A declaration of "his" sovereignty...

An embodiment of his pride...

Perhaps to counter the prophesy...



Idol!

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Daniel 3
 "Nebuchadnezzar the king...
 made an image of gold..." (3:1)

In Scripture... an "image" is that which "reflects" that which is unseen & redirects your attention to what it represents...



Idol!

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Daniel 3
 "Nebuchadnezzar the king...
 made an image of gold..." (3:1)


...sixty cubits high and six cubits wide...



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The Coplay Cement Kilns...

In 1871, David Saylor was the first person to make Portland cement in the United States. David, along with two of his business associates from Allentown, created the Coplay Cement Company in 1866 to produce this necessary product for America's growing cities and towns.



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The Coplay Cement Kilns...

Based in the Lehigh County community of Coplay, the company created Portland cement using stone found along the nearby Lehigh River.

This improved type of cement was primarily made from rock that already contained the three main ingredients: limestone, silica, and either clay or shale.

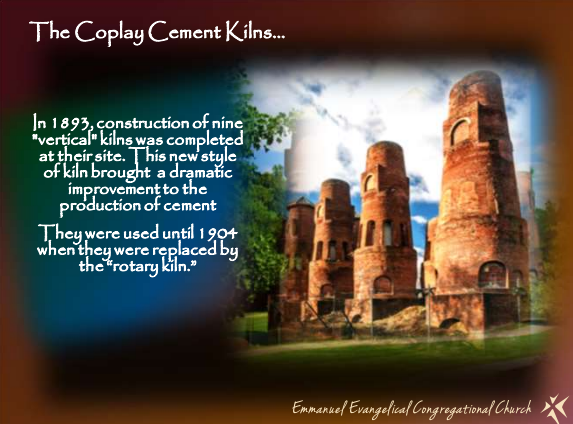


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The Coplay Cement Kilns...

In 1893, construction of nine "vertical" kilns was completed at their site. This new style of kiln brought a dramatic improvement to the production of cement.

They were used until 1904 when they were replaced by the "rotary kiln."



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The Coplay Cement Kilns...

Each kiln is 90-feet tall!
(60 cubits!)



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The Coplay Cement Kilns...

Video fly-by



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Daniel 3
"Nebuchadnezzar the king... made an image of gold..." (3:1)

Huge!
Imposing!
No apparent way to bypass it!
It was to become a "test by fire!"

Idol!



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Slide 17

RS1

90' tall!

Rick Sergi, 6/9/2020

Daniel 3

Then Nebuchadnezzar *the king* summoned...
the "who's who!"
to come to the dedication of
the image he had set up...

So the "who's who"..."
...assembled
for the dedication of the image
that Nebuchadnezzar *the king*
had set up, and they stood
before it.



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Daniel 3

...this is what you are commanded to do...

As soon as you hear the sound
of the horn, flute, zither, lyre,
harp, pipe and all kinds of music,
you must fall down and worship
the image of gold that
Nebuchadnezzar *the king*
has set up.
Whoever does not fall down
and worship will immediately be
thrown into a blazing furnace.



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Daniel 3

Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound
of the horn, flute, zither, lyre,
harp and all kinds of music,
all the nations and peoples of
every language
fell down and worshiped the
image of gold that
Nebuchadnezzar *the king*
had set up.

Full submission &
obedience



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Daniel 3

At this time some certain Chaldeans came
forward and denounced the Jews.
They said to Nebuchadnezzar
the king,
"May the king live forever!"

Jealousy!
Manipulation!



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Daniel 3

At this time some certain Chaldeans came
forward and denounced the Jews.
They said to Nebuchadnezzar
the king,
"May the king live forever!"

Your Majesty has issued a decree
that everyone who hears the sound
of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp,
pipe and all kinds of music must fall
down and worship the image of gold,
and that whoever does not fall down
and worship will be thrown into a
blazing furnace.



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Daniel 3

But there are some Jews...
whom you have set over the
affairs of the province of
Babylon -
Shadrach, Meshach and
Abednego -
who pay no attention to you,
Your Majesty.
They neither serve your gods
nor worship the image of gold you
have set up.



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Daniel 3

Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them,

"Is it true?"

*On the stand!
Pointedly asked!*



Daniel 3

"What God is there that can deliver you from my hand?"

...In the form of a question he boasts that there is no god capable of freeing Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.



Daniel 3

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied, to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to rethink our answer of defend ourselves before you in this matter.

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."



Their response to the command was neither for public display nor hidden!



They were not required to neglect their own God, just adopt his (him) as well!




Yet, they didn't compromise... Their declaration was clear and they stood firm.



*They trusted and had faith in God,
not in their expectation of His response!*

They did not doubt His *ability*, but neither did they presume to know God's *will*.

*"Though He slay me,
yet will I trust Him."
Job 13:15*



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*I am the Lord your God...
You shall have no other gods before Me!*

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*How often do we fashion idols in our
own image
and "breath life into them?"*

*...allowing them to "grow?"
...multiply?
"fill our view?"*

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*How often do the "kingdoms of our own
making" confront the kingdom of God?*

Cain - Genesis 4

*"Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and
settled in the land of Nod... and built a city..."*

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*How often do the "kingdoms of our own
making" confront the kingdom of God?*

Pharaoh - Exodus 5:

*"Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice and let Israel go?
I do not know the Lord and besides, I will not let Israel go!"*

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*How often do the "kingdoms of our own
making" confront the kingdom of God?*

*Tower of Babel
Saul's struggles
Goliath's challenge
Elijah & the prophets of Baal (Mt Carmel)
Religious leaders & Jesus*

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How often do the "kingdoms of this world require of us...

When the music plays...

"...you are to fall down and worship..."

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1 Peter 4:3-4

"They are surprised you do not run with them... and malign you..."

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How will you respond when brought before the fire of testing?

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"If, standing before the heart-searching God at this time, you cannot say,

'It is true,'

... how should you act?

If you cannot say that you take Christ's cross, and are willing to follow him at all hazards, then hearken to me and learn the truth.

Do not make a profession at all.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon
Sep 12, 1886

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"If, standing before the heart-searching God at this time, you cannot say,

'It is true,'

Do not talk about baptism or the Lord's Supper, nor of joining a church, nor of being a Christian; for if you do, you will lie against your own soul. If it be not true that you renounce the world's idols, do not profess that it is so.

(Spurgeon)

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"If, standing before the heart-searching God at this time, you cannot say,


'It is true,'

It is unnecessary that a man should profess to be what he is not; it is a sin of (going overboard), a superfluity of naughtiness. If you cannot be true to Christ, if your coward heart is (unfaithful) to your Lord, do not profess to be his disciple, I beseech you. He that is married to the world, or (hard-hearted), had better return to his house, for he is of no service in this war."

(Spurgeon)

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Simon Peter –



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**And they stoned Stephen,
calling on God, and
saying, Lord Jesus, receive
my spirit.**



—Acts 7:59

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Mark 15:4-5
*“So again Pilate asked Him,
'Aren't you going to answer? See how many things
they are accusing you of.'
But Jesus still made
no reply...”*



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1 Corinthians 3:13
*“...their work will be shown for what it is,
because...
It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test
the quality of each person's work...”*

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Revelation 12:11
*“They triumphed over him by the blood
of the Lamb and by the word of their
testimony; they did not love their lives so
much as to shrink from death...”*

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