



BYKOTA
Verse by
Verse
Journey
Through
The Book
of Daniel

Week 8

Daniel 2: 48 (NASB)

Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.

Question

What is Daniel's role now?

He has gone from captive to ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief over all the wise men.

Question

Do you know what the first thing Daniel asked for in his new role?

Daniel 2: 49 (NASB)

*And Daniel made 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.*

Question

What can we learn from
all of this?

God is in control!

Romans 13: 1

*Every person is to be in
subjection to the
governing authorities.
For there is no authority
except from God, and
those which exist are
established by God.*



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Chapter 3

Question

What is Idolatry?

Giving anything a place of higher importance than God in your life.

Question

Do you think that man is
religious at heart?

Why?

Interesting Observation

Just like God created man in His image, for His Godly pleasure, man creates a false god in man's image to allow mankind to indulge in their own sinful pleasure.

Psalm 115: 1-8

Not to us, O Lord, not to us,
But to Your name give glory
Because of Your
lovingkindness, because of
Your truth. Why should the
nations say, “Where, now, is
their God?” But our God is in
the heavens; He does
whatever He pleases.

Their idols are silver and
gold, The work of man's
hands. They have
mouths, but they cannot
speak; They have eyes,
but they cannot see;
They have ears, but they
cannot hear;

They have noses, but they cannot smell; They have hands, but they cannot feel; They have feet, but they cannot walk; They cannot make a sound with their throat. Those who make them will become like them, Everyone who trusts in them.

Here is an example of
this:

The temples of baal were occupied by priestesses who were known as “shrine prostitutes.” These prostitutes were actually considered to be holy women because baal was believed to be present during the sexual act itself.

Because of this sex with a temple prostitute would allow one to be in the presence of baal and to have intercourse with a temple prostitute was to be united in power with baal, making sex with a prostitute a very sacred act of worship.

Romans 1: 22-27 (NLT)

Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise!

Amen.

Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

Question

Do you know what the first commandment is?

Exodus 20: 3-6

“You shall have no other gods before Me. “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

You shall not worship them
or serve them; for I, the Lord
your God, am a jealous God,
visiting the iniquity of the
fathers on the children, on
the third and the fourth
generations of those who hate
Me, but showing
lovingkindness to thousands,
to those who love Me and
keep My commandments.

Question

Why do you think God puts this commandment first?

How we should react to idolatry?

1. **FLEE**

1 Corinthians 10: 14

*Therefore, my beloved,
flee from idolatry.*

How we should react to idolatry?

2. GUARD AGAINST

1 John 5: 21

Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

How we should react to idolatry?

3. WATCH OUT FOR

Deuteronomy 4: 23

So watch yourselves, that you do not forget the covenant of the Lord your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a graven image in the form of anything against which the Lord your God has commanded you.

Question

Do we see idolatry
today?

What are some
examples?

Dr. Andrew Blackwood,
professor emeritus of
Princeton said “*America
has these following gods:
Self, money, pleasure,
sex, romance,
amusements, sports,
education.*”

Dr. W. Stanford Reid of
McGill University said:
*“The principle god of our
times, is our standard of
living. We are so
concerned with material
possessions that we have
forgotten they are a gift of
God.”*

Question

What do all of those have
in common?

Self gratification!

I found the following list
in a commentary by
John MacArthur that
summarizes examples of
idolatry found in
scripture.

- bowing down to images
- worshiping images
- sacrificing to images
- worshiping other gods
- swearing by other gods
- walking after other gods
- speaking in the name of other gods
- looking to other gods
- serving other gods
- fearing other gods
- sacrificing to other gods

- worshiping the true God by an image

- worshiping angels

- worshiping the hosts of heaven

- worshiping devils

- worshiping dead men

- setting up idols in the heart

- covetousness

- sensuality

Question

Do you think it is possible to worship God in an idolatrous manner, for example using Christian statues or symbols?

Numbers 21: 6-9

The Lord sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. So the people came to Moses and said,

“We have sinned,
because we have spoken
against the Lord and
you; intercede with the
Lord, that He may
remove the serpents
from us.”

And Moses interceded for the people. Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live.”

And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.

2 Kings 18: 1-4

Now it came about in the third year of Hoshea, the son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah became king.

He was twenty-five years
old when he became
king, and he reigned
twenty-nine years in
Jerusalem; and his
mother's name was Abi
the daughter of
Zechariah

He did right in the sight
of the Lord, according to
all that his father David
had done. He removed
the high places and
broke down the sacred
pillars and cut down the
Asherah.

He also broke in
pieces the bronze
serpent that Moses
had made, for until
those days the sons of
Israel burned incense to
it; and it was called
Nehushtan.

Leviticus 26: 1

You shall not make for yourselves idols, nor shall you set up for yourselves an image or a sacred pillar, nor shall you place a figured stone in your land to bow down to it; for I am the LORD your God.



Daniel 3: 1(NASB)

Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits and its width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

A cubit is an ancient
measure of length
approximately the length
of a forearm.

Let's do some math

1 Cubit = 18 inches

$$60 \times 18 \text{ in} = 1080 \text{ in}$$

$$1080 \text{ in} / 12 \text{ in per foot} = 90 \text{ feet}$$

So we know the statue is around 90 feet tall.

$$6 \times 18 \text{ in} = 108 \text{ in}$$

$$108 \text{ in} / 12 \text{ in per foot} =$$

$$9 \text{ feet}$$

So we know the statue is
around 9 feet wide.

The standard utility pole
in the US is around 40
feet, once buried 5 feet in
the ground it reaches
about 35 feet high

In the 1800's French Archeologist Jules Oppert found a row of mounds in the plane of Dura, at the end of which there is a smaller one built of bricks which is named el Mokattat.

El Mokattat forms a square 19ft high and 46ft wide, which appears to be a colossal pedestal that Oppert believes is the remains of the base that supported the golden statue erected by Nebuchadnezzar.

Question

Why do you think
Nebuchadnezzar wanted
to put this image in the
plane of Dura?

To be visible for miles!





Question

We don't know what the image was, we just know the dimensions, so what do you think it could have been an image of?

I believe this idol was created shortly after Daniel revealed the interpretation of the king's dream because I believe Nebuchadnezzar was trying to re-create his golden head.

Daniel 3: 2 (NASB)

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent word to assemble the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges,

Daniel 3: 2 (NASB)

*the magistrates and all
the rulers of the provinces
to come to the
dedication of the image
that Nebuchadnezzar the
king had set up.*

Question

Who are all these
characters?

Satraps: Princes or chief rulers of provinces who had access to the king at all times

Prefects: lieutenants, lesser princes, nobles of the various provinces

Governors: Deputy rulers of outlying provinces or leaders of armies

Counselors: Assistants to the king in making laws, Supreme Court

Treasurers: Those in charge of the treasure houses

Judges: Lawyers, prosecutors, local judges

Magistrates: Sheriffs,
law enforcement,
police

Rulers of provinces:
state and civil officers
and various wise men

This would have been a very formal atmosphere with all the elected and appointed officials present, much like a presidential inauguration today.



Question

What were all these
people invited to?

A dedication ceremony,
not a worship service!

Question

Where is Daniel?

Daniel 3: 3 (NASB)

Then the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces were assembled for the dedication of the image

Daniel 3: 3 (NASB)

that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.



Question

Do you think all these people knew what was about to happen?

Daniel 3: 4 (NASB)

Then the herald loudly proclaimed: "To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and men of every language, that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery,

*bagpipe and all kinds of
music, you are to fall
down and worship the
golden image that
Nebuchadnezzar the king
has set up.*

Question

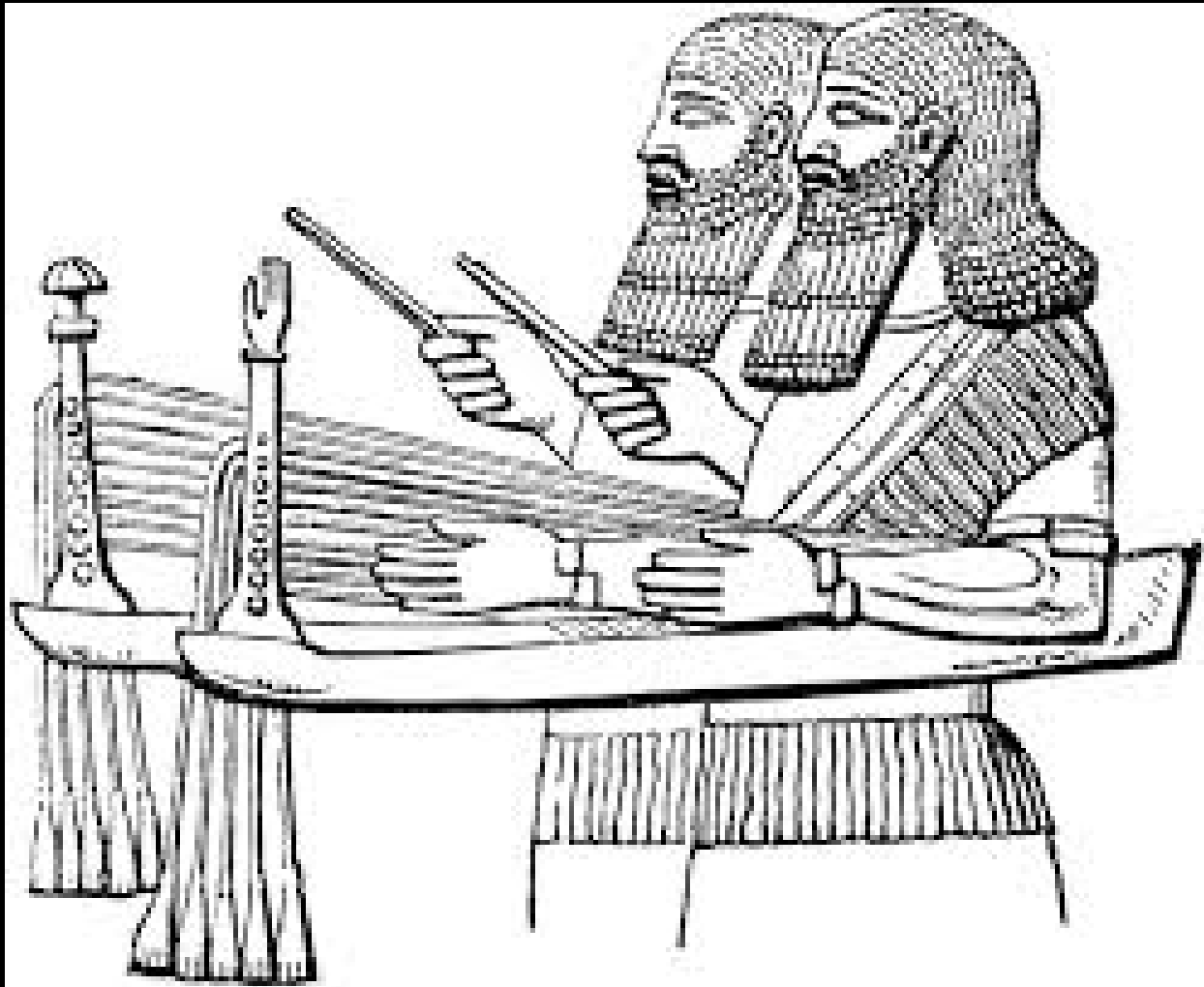
What is a Herald?

What are all these instruments-horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe?

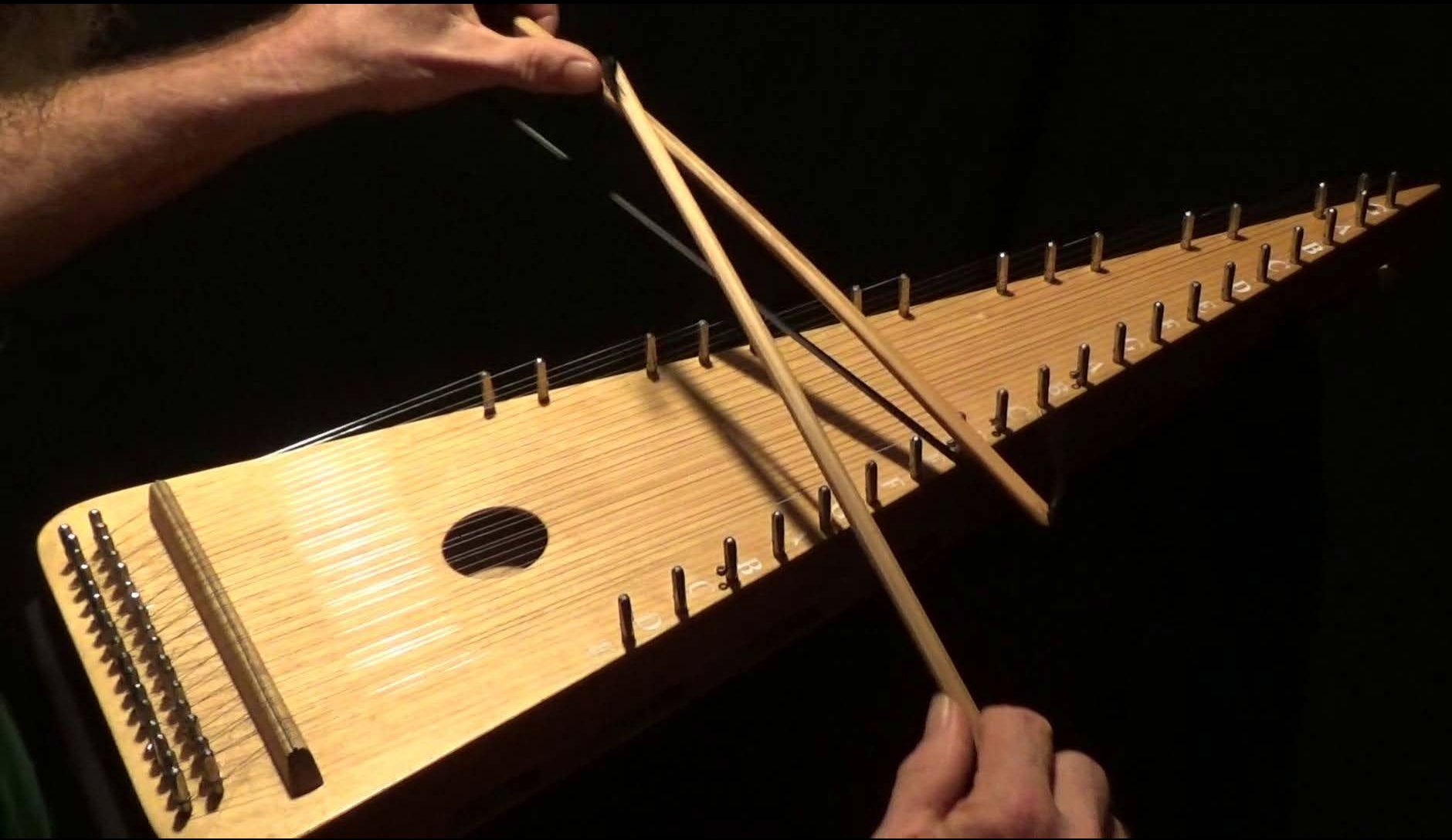
Lyre



Trigon



Psaltery



Daniel 3: 6 (NASB)

But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.”

Question

What kind of furnace is this and why is it out in the middle of this open plane?

The golden statue is
ninety feet high by nine
feet wide.

It would take a large
amount of melted gold to
build this statue!

All this gold would have
to be melted and poured
so I believe this furnace
was built to melt the
gold to build the statue.



Question

What is Nebuchadnezzar forcing the people to do?

There are three instances in the Bible where the entire world is forced to worship a false god, do you know what they are?

Answer

1. Nimrod and the tower of Babel
2. Nebuchadnezzar and his image of gold
3. The antichrist and the image of the beast

Question

What do you get if the world is
worshiping you?

Quote from German Officer:

*He who serves our Führer, Adolf
Hitler, serves Germany, and he
who serves Germany, serves
God.*