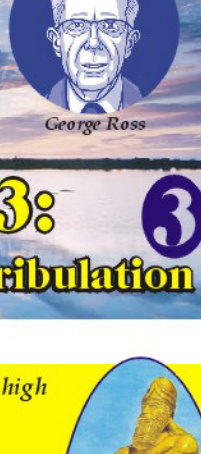




TRUTH THAT NEVER CHANGES



George Ross

Revelation 13: 3

The Faithful Remnant in the Tribulation

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide. He set it up in the plain of Dura.

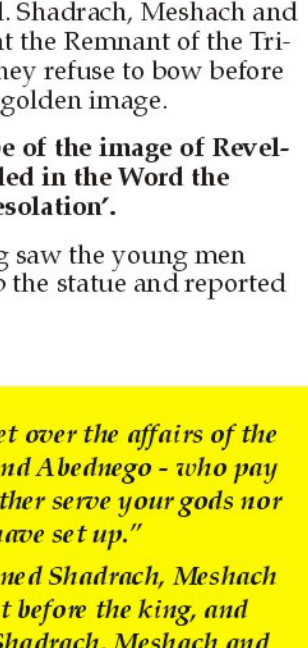
DANIEL 3:1

The image supposedly reflected the statue in the dream Daniel interpreted (Daniel 2; see tract 1), but was in the king's likeness and in fact glorified his own achievements. When we read Revelation the story in Daniel 3 becomes clear. Nebuchadnezzar is one of many types of this coming powerful man we call the Antichrist. Babylon is the forerunner of the great world empire which this Man of Sin will rule in the 'Tribulation Period'. (Daniel 3:1) Note the prominence of the number 6 in the dimensions of this image sixty cubits high, six cubits wide!



Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

DANIEL 3: 4-6




Nebuchadnezzar's people obeyed the edict, but three young Hebrews remained steadfast in their love of God. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego represent the Remnant of the Tribulation, because they refuse to bow before Nebuchadnezzar's golden image.

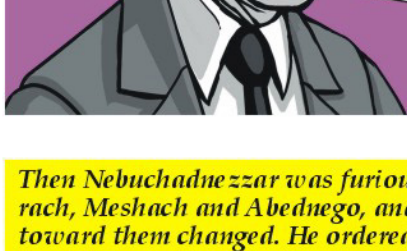
This statue is a type of the image of Revelation 13, and is called in the Word the 'abomination of desolation'.

Servants of the king saw the young men refusing to worship the statue and reported them to the king.

"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."

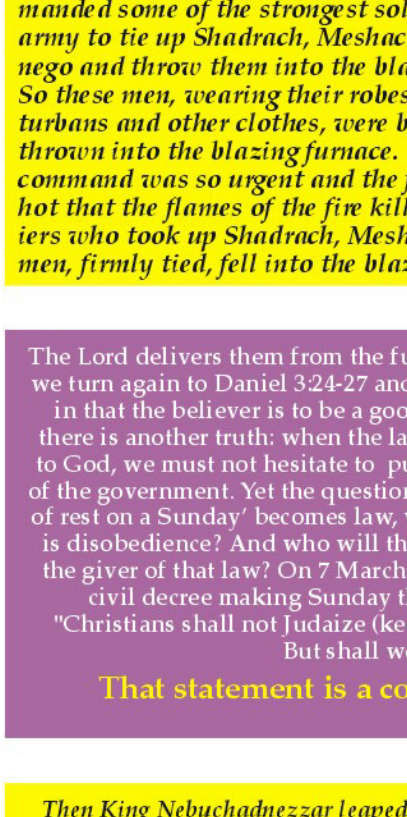
Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?"

DANIEL 3: 12-14



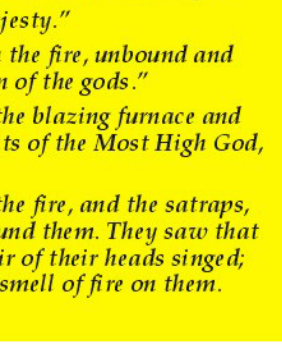
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if He does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will **NOT** serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

DANIEL 3:16-18



Next, notice the answer of the three youths to the demand of the wicked king! The king, who was the highest authority in that day: see Daniel 3:16-18. The result of the three youths' steadfastness infuriated Nebuchadnezzar. (Check Daniel 3:19-23.)

Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. DANIEL 3: 19-23



The Lord delivers them from the furnace and they are highly exalted. Now we turn again to Daniel 3:24-27 and see the clear picture. The Bible is clear in that the believer is to be a good and faithful citizen of the land. But there is another truth: when the laws of the land conflict with the service to God, we must not hesitate to put the will of God above the commands of the government. Yet the question needs to be asked when the 'Earth day of rest on a Sunday' becomes law, will punishment be enacted when there is disobedience? And who will the world worship on that day; will it be the giver of that law? On 7 March 321 AD Emperor Constantine issued a civil decree making Sunday the day of rest from labour, stating: "Christians shall not Judaize (keep sabbath) and be idle on Saturday... But shall work on that day."

That statement is a contradiction of God's law.

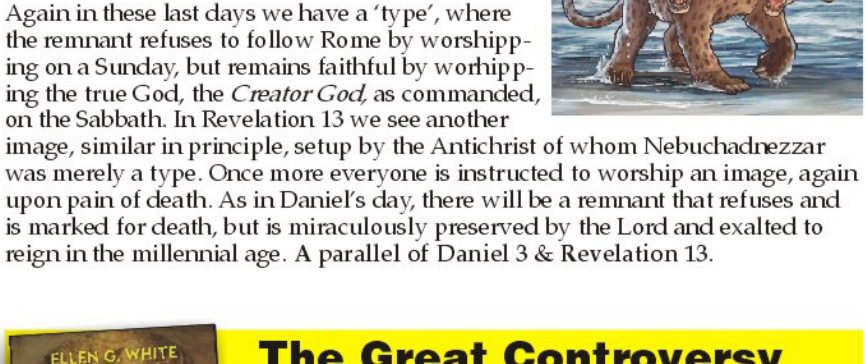
Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

DANIEL 3:24-27



After their trial they came out perfectly unharmed. Verse 25 says Nebuchadnezzar saw a fourth man appearing in human form, as He had done previously in the Old Testament. He had come down to deliver the faithful three from the impious wrath of the king. So, likewise in the Tribulation period, when the Faithful Remnant is cast into the furnace of affliction, they will also be delivered by the personal coming of the Messiah.



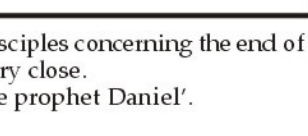
Bound and foot, cast in the fire, then walking free. All the fire affected, were the bonds that held them!

And to you who are also passing through the fire because of your faith in Christ, remember the fire cannot hurt you, but only serve to free you and exalt you in due course.

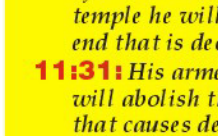
This is true for all God's people who are faithful and who refuse to bow before the coming Antichrist. The Lord has not promised to keep us out of the fire of Tribulation, but He has promised to be with us in trouble and to see us through. Jesus says in John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

But remember Jesus said Daniel was a prophet - his prophecies dealt with future events.

We started this tract with Nebuchadnezzar instructing everyone to worship his golden image. Everybody obeys, with the exception of a few, a little remnant who refuses to do so.



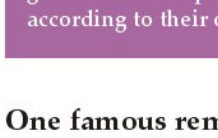
Again in these last days we have a 'type', where the remnant refuses to follow Rome by worshipping on a Sunday, but remains faithful by worshipping the true God, the *Creator God*, as commanded, on the Sabbath. In Revelation 13 we see another image, similar in principle, setup by the Antichrist of whom Nebuchadnezzar was merely a type. Once more everyone is instructed to worship an image, again upon pain of death. As in Daniel's day, there will be a remnant that refuses and is marked for death, but is miraculously preserved by the Lord and exalted to reign in the millennial age. A parallel of Daniel 3 & Revelation 13.



The Great Controversy

At the end of this age Satan will once more revive his Babylonian programme and under the direction of the two beasts of Revelation 13 will set up a world kingdom and will attempt to force a world religion by setting up an image and will once more attempt to destroy God's chosen elect, yet will come to an end as all the rest of Satan's puppets, such as Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar. This indicates that man's history has always been a great controversy, not a succession of isolated events. The great controversy has always been the struggle of Satan against Christ and God's people.

So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation', spoken of through the prophet Daniel - let the reader understand - then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. MATTHEW 24:15,16



For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now - and never to be equalled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

MATTHEW 24: 21,22

The Tribulation, remember, is the fulfilment of Daniel's prophecy in chapter 9 of his book. Jesus spoke about this terrible time in Matthew 24:15,16,21,22.

In Matthew 24 Jesus answers the question of the disciples concerning the end of the age which we believe is very close.

Remember Jesus refers to Daniel as 'the prophet Daniel'.

The Abomination of Desolation

Jesus says that in this Tribulation period Daniel's prophecy of the Abomination of Desolation will be fulfilled, referring to the following verses from Daniel:

9:27: He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven'. In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. ['Seven' means a week.]

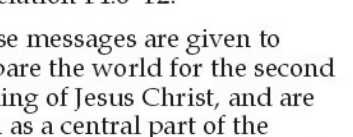
11:31: His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.

12:11: From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

The Remnant

Definition: A small minority of people who will remain faithful to God and so be saved.

The Bible is full of stories where God calls His chosen people out of dangerous places or destructive company for their own safety. Although they had received numerous warnings to repent, the general mass of people choose to reject God and live according to their own selfish ways.



One famous remnant story in particular we find in Genesis 6: the story of Noah and his ark. God told Noah to build an enormous ark (Genesis 6:14) so that he and anyone else who believed God's warning would be safe from the terrible flood that would wipe out all life on earth. Noah and his family made up a faithful remnant of God's true followers.



The End-Times Remnant and who will be part of it: Those who are part of this remnant are recognisable by the way they choose to obey God's commandments at all costs, pledging their allegiance to Him and turning away from sin.

The book of Revelation is full of prophetic imagery, using metaphorical characters to symbolise literal events. In Revelation, Satan is depicted as a raging dragon, while God's church and His people are symbolised by a woman whom the dragon seeks to destroy.



Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus...

REVELATION 12:17, ESV

The Remnant's Mission



As the few true believers in the last days, the Remnant have been entrusted with a God-given mission, a message they must deliver to the entire world. Rather than hiding their faith, they are commissioned to share the gospel and tell others who God is and what He has done. The apostle John writes about this message when he says in Revelation 14:6-7 that the first angel spreads the news that God is our creator, is our only source of Salvation, and that we ought to worship Him.

We are not to seek our salvation from other sources or try to live by our own rules.

The Three Angels' Messages



The *three angels' messages* are an interpretation of the messages given by three angels in Revelation 14:6-12.

These messages are given to prepare the world for the second coming of Jesus Christ, and are seen as a central part of the mission of the Remnant Church.

First Angel's Message

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His Judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

REVELATION 14:6-7 ESV

The second angel warns the Earth that Babylon, the biblical symbol of selfish ambition, will fall. God's judgement is coming, and all the worldly things people have worked for are going to become worthless. The only thing people can do, is to flee Babylon and turn to Christ, as God commanded His remnant to do.

Second Angel's Message

Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."

REVELATION 14:8 ESV

Third Angel's Message

And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of His anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

REVELATION 14:9-12, ESV

◆ Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

Each of us can do our part in the Remnant Church's mission, by telling others who God is and helping them to be ready for the Second Coming. God doesn't want anyone to be lost. He wants as many of His precious children in Heaven with Him as possible, and by spreading the three angels' messages and sharing God's Word, we can help make that happen.

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