

BIBLE STUDY NOTES - Rev. James B. Logan

January 21, 2009

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

This two part bible study is in correlation with the Inauguration of the first Black President of the United States of America, which took place on January 20, 2009. This study will focus on qualities needed for President Barack Obama to provide effective leadership. The points of leadership discussed can also be applied to the life of any believer and follower of Jesus Christ.

DANIEL CHAPTER 3: 1 - 30

¹ Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height *was* threescore cubits, *and* the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. ² Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. ³ Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁴ Then an herald cried aloud^a, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, ⁵ *That* at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer^b, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and

a^a aloud: Chaldee with might

b^b dulcimer: or, singing: Chaldee symphony

worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: ⁶ And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. ⁷ Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down *and* worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

⁸ Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews. ⁹ They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live forever. ¹⁰ Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image: ¹¹ And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, *that* he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. ¹² There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have^c not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. ¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in *his* rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, *Is it true*^d, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; *well*: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who *is* that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we *are* not careful

c^c have...: Chaldee have set no regard upon thee

d^d true: or, of purpose

to answer thee in this matter. ¹⁷ If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

¹⁹ Then was Nebuchadnezzar full^e of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: *therefore* he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. ²⁰ And he commanded the most^f mighty men that *were* in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, *and* to cast *them* into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹ Then these men were bound in their coats^g, their hosen, and their hats, and their *other* garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²² Therefore because the king's commandment^h was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²⁴ Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, *and* spake, and said unto his counsellorsⁱ, Did not we cast three

e^e full: Chaldee filled

f^f most...: Chaldee mighty of strength

g^g coats: or, mantles

h^h commandment: Chaldee word

iⁱ counsellors: or, governors

men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. ²⁵ He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. ²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth^j of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come *hither*. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire. ²⁷ And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

²⁸ *Then* Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make^k a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort. ³⁰ Then the king promoted^l Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.

LEADERSHIP POINTS

j^j mouth: Chaldee door

k^k I make...: Chaldee a decree is made by me

l^l promoted: Chaldee made to prosper

1 – **In time of crisis, good men must stand up.** God always sends the best men into the worst times. [Look at Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego’s background] – Daniel 1: 1-8

2 – **You cannot change what you will not confront.** This is a moment of confrontation in this country. There’s no way around it… This is not a time for politeness or correctness, this is a time for people to confront issues and bring about change.

3 – **You cannot enjoy the light without enduring the heat.** The reality is the more brilliant, the more glorious, the more essential the light, the more intense the heat. We cannot separate one from the other. Trials, though we don’t appreciate them at the moment, make us stronger, draw us closer to the Lord and glorify God. NOTE: v. 25 - The fire only burned the cords that bound the Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego. Afflictions succeed in accomplishing God’s purposes and setting us free from the things that bind us.

4 – **Extraordinary times require extraordinary methods.** This is a historical moment for us and our nation and our country. However, new approaches must be attempted in providing the type of leadership that will bring change in and outside of the USA. Question: Do you see any new leadership methods used by President Obama already? If so, what are they? [**A very kind transitional courtesy extended to the former President and his wife; dinner held for McCain, technology, family values etc.**]

***NOTE: These four main points were shared with President Obama as a biblical mandate during a worship service. The additional references and explanations of our study were not included in the sermonic delivery to the President.**

