

Just a sampling of verses:

<p>3:1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold</p>	<p>Recall Daniel's words in 2:29 "he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass." It appears Nebuchadnezzar was rejecting the prophecy in Chapter 2. ("Image" is same word as in 2:31, 32, 34, 35). He had confessed that Daniel's "God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets." (2:47), but now he appeared to be saying, "The secret is just what I dreamed; it is not the interpretation." Recall two of our numbered themes from Chapter 2 at issue here: 10. <i>The testimony of Jesus</i>: the spirit of Christ speaks through messengers to reveal secrets 11. <i>God removes and sets up kings</i>: earthly domains defiled by Satan's principles, but God is still in charge</p>		
<p>5 at what time ye hear ... all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:</p>	<p><b>Worship</b> is also the issue; this is why he set up the image! Recall another theme from earlier: 3. <i>What caused Jerusalem to fall</i>: had become defiled; refused to hear the prophets; hard heart [compare 2 Chron. 33:3; 36:14] Notice that this is "Worship Confusion"--<b>who</b> you worship; <b>how</b> you worship. We should note that Nebuchadnezzar used music.</p>		
<p>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 not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.</p>	<p>The words of the accusers were a true assessment: "<b>serve</b> not thy gods, nor <b>worship</b> the golden image" (but "not regarded thee") 1. <b>Serve</b>: this word in Daniel involved the 3 Hebrews in this chapter (verses 12, 14, 17, 18, 28), Daniel himself in chapter 6 (verses 16, 20), and finally God's everlasting kingdom in chapter 7 (verses 14, 27). 2. <b>Worship</b>: this word in Daniel occurs only in 2:46, and this chapter (verses 5-7, 10-12, 14, 15, 18, 28). The previous chapter had revealed Nebuchadnezzar's "worship confusion." "Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and <b>worshipped</b> Daniel..." This issue is core to Great Controversy, as our Major Theme #3 alludes to. Observe also the following: <b>Jesus in the wilderness</b>: Matt. 4:8-10 (Deut 6:13; book of the law) <b>Only two alternatives</b>: Rom. 1:25 <b>Final issue in Revelation</b>: (some key verses)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">God: 14:7; 19:10; 22:9</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">Creature: 14:9; 19:10; 22:8</td> </tr> </table>	God: 14:7; 19:10; 22:9	Creature: 14:9; 19:10; 22:8
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<p>15 who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?</p>	<p>Recall he had confessed, "your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings" (2:47). Now he was saying: "Your God can reveal my dream, but not only does He not know the future. He is not 'Lord of kings' as far as I am concerned." Further he was rejecting Daniel's testimony, "the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory." (2: 37)</p>		
<p>16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.</p>	<p>8. <i>How to relate to authority</i>: no earthly leader is perfect; submission to God first, then to earthly leader "We are not careful to answer thee in this matter" = "we have no need to answer you in this matter." Why? Because of the witness of chapters 1 and 2 to him already. In essence, they were saying, "You know who is in charge!"</p>		

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.	<p>"If it be so"--          "Our God whom we <b>serve</b> is <b>able to deliver</b> us." They were confessing, "We do know His position, identity, and ability."          "He <b>will deliver</b> us out of thine hand."          This was one alternative; the next was--</p>		
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.	<p>"But if not"--          "We will not <b>serve</b> thy gods, nor <b>worship</b> the golden image which thou hast set up." This echoed verses 12, 14; we will see the two themes also in verse 28.</p>		
20 to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.	bind	Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego	cast (vs. 6, 11, 15)
21. these men were bound..., and were cast	bound	these men	cast
23 these three men..., fell down bound	bound	these three	fell down
24 Nebuchadnezzar ... Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?	bound? ↓ ↓ ↓	three men? ↓ ↓ ↓	cast? ↓ ↓ ↓
25 ...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.	<b>loose</b>	<b>four men</b>	<b>walking</b>
	<p>"have no hurt"-- Compare Isa. 43:2 "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Also consider ultimately Isa. 33: 14, 15 "Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly."</p>		
26 ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither.	<p>"servants of the most high God"-- Nebuchadnezzar was beginning to acknowledge God's true position. The word "servants" occurs also in verse 28. In 6:20 it is applied to Daniel.</p>		
28 Nebuchadnezzar ... Blessed be the God ... 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.	<p>"Blessed be the God"-- Compare 2:19, 20; 4:34.          "sent his angel = "the fourth ... like the Son of God"; compare 6:22          "delivered his servants that"--          1. "trusted in him"          2. "changed the king's word" = what the three men did; same word "changed" is found in 4:16; 5:6, 9; 6:8, 15; 7:25          3. "yielded their bodies" = not rebels          Recall theme #8. <i>How to relate to authority</i>: no earthly leader is perfect; submission to God first, then to earthly leader.          "that they might not <b>serve</b> nor <b>worship</b> any god, except their own God"-- This was submission to higher authority; see vs. 12, 14, 18.</p>		
29 I make a decree, ...speak any thing amiss against the God ... shall be cut in pieces....	<p>His earlier "I will kill you if you don't worship my image" had now changed to "I will kill you if you speak against this God." He still had not learned lesson #15. <i>God shines into darkness</i>: God's light of giving shines in the darkness of no giving and of taking</p>		