

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

"Conform or Transform - Which?"

Daniel 3:1-30

Introduction

1. Not wanting to be belittled as outmoded, irrelevant, and puritanical, many have spurned the thought of speaking out. They have fallen to simple harmony with all around themselves.

2. The story of Daniel 3 evinces how three men in a foreign situation and under most unfavorable conditions refused to conform, but to transform.

3. What were the conditions which led these men to their decision?

1. A TEST OF SUBMISSION vv. 1-7

This test of submission involved three major items:

a. An image of worship. v. 1.

May have been suggested from Dan 2 or from Marduke, one of the primary gods of Babylonians, 90 feet in height. It could be seen up to 15 miles away.

b. A call to worship vv. 4-5.

The vote of paganism called and hoped for response.

c. An act of worship. 4. 6.

The verb used here in Heb. is the one normally associated with idol worship. Cf. Isa. 44:15,17, 19; 46:6.

The test was clear; it was an open violation of Deut. 6:4,5; Ex. 20:3-5, etc.

2. An ACCUSATION OF DERISION vv. 8-12.

This accusation included:

a. Respect for the king.

A great deal of psychological diplomacy is used to enamor the king. Cf. vv. 9:12.

b. Report of the Jews.

Specific words of hostility towards the Jews