

## ~MESHACH (399)

(Me'shach)

.. Maintains Integrity As A Youth

.. Refuses To Bow To Image

- The Babylonian name given by Nebuchadnezzar's chief court official to Daniel's companion **Mishael**. The meaning of this new name is uncertain, but it may have included a reference to Aku, a Sumerian god.

.. Maintains Integrity As A Youth

- **Meshach**, or **Mishael**, was carried captive from Jerusalem to Babylon in **617 B.C.E.** along with Jehoiachin and others. **Mishael**, Azariah, Hananiah, and Daniel were then put through a three-year training course by the Babylonian royalty, at the end of which they proved superior even to the kings counselors.
- In his days Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came up, and so Jehoiakim became his servant for three years. However, he turned back and rebelled against him. (**2 Kings 24:1**)
- Finally Jehoiakim lay down with his forefathers, and Jehoiachin his son began to reign in place of him. (**2 Kings 24:6**)
- Eighteen years old was Jehoiachin when he began to reign, and for three months he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. (**2 Kings 24:8**)
- At length Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he with his mother and his servants and his princes and his court officials, and the king of Babylon got to take him in the eighth year of his being king. (**2 Kings 24:12**)
- Then he brought out from there all the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the king's house, and went on to cut to pieces all the gold utensils that Solomon the king of Israel had made in the temple of Yehowah, just as Yehowah had spoken. (**2 Kings 24:13**)
- And he took into exile all Jerusalem and all the princes and all

**the valiant, mighty men, ten thousand he was taking into exile, and also every craftsman and builder of bulwarks. No one had been left behind except the lowly class of the people of the land. (2 Kings 24:14)**

- **Thus he took Jehoiachin into exile to Babylon, and the king's mother and the king's wives and his court officials and the foremost men of the land he led away as exiled people from Jerusalem to Babylon. (2 Kings 24:15)**
- **As for all the valiant men, seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the builders of bulwarks, a thousand, all the mighty men carrying on war, the king of Babylon proceeded to bring them as exiled people to Babylon. (2 Kings 24:16)**
- **In the third year of the kingship of Jehoiakim the king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and proceeded to lay siege to it. (Daniel 1:1)**
- **In time Yehowah gave into his hand Jehoiakim the king of Judah and a part of the utensils of the house of the true God, so that he brought them to the land of Shinar to the house of his god, and the utensils he brought to the treasure-house of his god. (Daniel 1:2)**
- **Then the king said to Ashpenaz his chief court official to bring some of the sons of Israel and of the royal offspring and of the nobles. (Daniel 1:3)**
- **Children in whom there was no defect at all, but good in appearance and having insight into all wisdom and being acquainted with knowledge, and having discernment of what is known, in whom also there was ability to stand in the palace of the king, and to teach them the writing and the tongue of the Chaldeans. (Daniel 1:4)**
- **Furthermore, to them the king appointed a daily allowance from the delicacies of the king and from his drinking wine, even to nourish them for three years, that at the end of these they might stand before the king. (Daniel 1:5)**
- **Now there happened to be among them some of the sons of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. (Daniel 1:6)**

- And to them the principal court official went assigning names. So he assigned to Daniel the name of Belteshazzar, and to Hananiah, Shadrach, and to Mishael, **Meshach**, and to Azariah, Abednego. (**Daniel 1:7**)
- And as for these children, the four of them, to them the true God gave knowledge and insight in all writing and wisdom, and Daniel himself had understanding in all sorts of visions and dreams. (**Daniel 1:17**)
- And at the end of the days that the king had said to bring them in, the principal court official also proceeded to bring them in before Nebuchadnezzar. (**Daniel 1:18**)
- And the king began to speak with them, and out of them all no one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, and they continued to stand before the king. (**Daniel 1:19**)
- And as regards every matter of wisdom and understanding that the king inquired about from them, he even got to find them ten times better than all the magic-practicing priests and the conjurers that were in all his royal realm. (**Daniel 1:20**)
- During this time these four remained firm in their devotion to God, even refusing to pollute themselves with the king's delicacies.
- But Daniel determined in his heart that he would not pollute himself with the delicacies of the king and with his drinking wine. And he kept requesting of the principal court official that he might not pollute himself. (**Daniel 1:8**)
- Accordingly the true God gave Daniel over to loving-kindness and to mercy before the principal court official. (**Daniel 1:9**)
- So the principal court official said to Daniel; I am in fear of my lord the king, who has appointed your food and your drink. Why, then, should he see your faces dejected-looking in comparison with the children who are of the same age as yours, and why should you have to make my head guilty to the king? (**Daniel 1:10**)
- But Daniel said to the guardian whom the principal court official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. (**Daniel 1:11**)

- Please, put your servants to the test for ten days, and let them give us some vegetables that we may eat and water that we may drink. ([Daniel 1:12](#))
- And let our countenances and the countenance of the children who are eating the delicacies of the king appear before you, and according to what you see do with your servants. ([Daniel 1:13](#))
- Finally he listened to them as regards this matter and put them to the test for ten days. ([Daniel 1:14](#))
- And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the children who were eating the delicacies of the king. ([Daniel 1:15](#))
- So the guardian kept on taking away their delicacies and their drinking wine and giving them vegetables. ([Daniel 1:16](#))
- There are three probable reasons why they considered the kings delicacies polluting. (1) The Babylonians ate animals declared unclean by the Mosaic Law. (2) they would not be careful to see that the animals were properly bled, some perhaps being strangled. (3) the pagans often first sacrificed the animals to their gods, considering the eating of such meat as a part of worship of these gods.
- But Daniel determined in his heart that he would not pollute himself with the delicacies of the king and with his drinking wine. And he kept requesting of the principal court official that he might not pollute himself. ([Daniel 1:8](#))
- Look at that which is Israel in a fleshly way. Are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers with the altar? ([1 Corinthians 10:18](#))
- What, then, am I to say? That what is sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? ([1 Corinthians 10:19](#))
- No, but I say that the things which the nations sacrifice they sacrifice to demons, and not to God, and I do not want you to become sharers with the demons. ([1 Corinthians 10:20](#))
- But if anyone should say to you; This is something offered in sacrifice, do not eat on account of the one that disclosed it and on account of conscience. ([1 Corinthians 10:28](#))

- Later, after Daniel had been advanced to a high governmental position in the court of the king, Nebuchadnezzar, at Daniel's request, appointed **Meshach**, Shadrach, and Abednego over the administration of the jurisdictional district of Babylon.
- Consequently the king made Daniel someone great, and many big gifts he gave to him, and he made him the ruler over all the jurisdictional district of Babylon and the chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. (**Daniel 2:48**)
- And Daniel, for his part, made a request of the king, and he appointed over the administration of the jurisdictional district of Babylon Shadrach, **Meshach** and Abednego, but Daniel was in the court of the king. (**Daniel 2:49**)

## •• Refuses To Bow To Image

- **Meshach** and his two companions again came to the king's notice because of refusing, in the sight of all the other government personnel, to bow down before the great image Nebuchadnezzar had made.
- With full faith in Yehowah, they told Nebuchadnezzar that they would not join in serving the king's gods. Whether their God chose to deliver them from the furnace made no difference, they would nonetheless maintain integrity to him rather than compromise for release.
- Stayed the force of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from a weak state were made powerful, became valiant in war, routed the armies of foreigners. (**Hebrews 11:34**)
- Women received their dead by resurrection, but other men were tortured because they would not accept release by some ransom, in order, that they might attain a better resurrection. (**Hebrews 11:35**)
- Mention is made of those who stayed the force of fire and who would not accept release by some ransom, in order, that they might attain a better resurrection.
- For their faith Yehowah preserved them by means of his angel. In fact, on their coming out, the smell of fire itself had not come onto them. Nebuchadnezzar, who had been so enraged that he ordered the

furnace to be heated seven times more than customary before throwing the three men into it, now acknowledged their God as a deliverer.

- Furthermore, he commanded that anyone saying anything wrong against **Meshach's** god should be dismembered and his house made a public privy.
- Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits and the breadth of which was six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura in the jurisdictional district of Babylon. (**Daniel 3:1**)
- And Nebuchadnezzar himself as king sent to assemble the satraps, the prefects and the governor's, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the police magistrates and all the administrators of the jurisdictional districts to come to the inauguration of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. (**Daniel 3:2**)
- At that time the satraps, the prefects and the governor's, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the police magistrates and all the administrators of the jurisdictional districts were assembling themselves for the inauguration of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up, and they were standing in front of the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. (**Daniel 3:3**)
- And the herald was crying out loudly; To you it is being said; O peoples, national groups and languages. (**Daniel 3:4**)
- That at the time that you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular harp, the stringed instrument, the bagpipe and all sorts of musical instruments, you fall down and worship the image of gold that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up. (**Daniel 3:5**)
- And whoever does not fall down and worship will at the same moment be thrown into the burning fiery furnace. (**Daniel 3:6**)
- Because of this, at the same time as all the peoples were hearing the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular harp, the stringed instrument and all sorts of musical instruments, all the peoples, national groups and languages were falling down and worshipping the image of gold that Nebuchadnezzar the king

had set up. (**Daniel 3:7**)

- Because of this, at that same time certain Chaldeans approached and accused the Jews. (**Daniel 3:8**)
- They answered, and they were saying to Nebuchadnezzar the king; O king, live on even for times indefinite. (**Daniel 3:9**)
- You yourself, O king, set forth the command that every man that hears the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular harp, the stringed instrument, and the bagpipe and all sorts of musical instruments, should fall down and worship the image of gold. (**Daniel 3:10**)
- And that whoever would not fall down and worship should be thrown into the burning fiery furnace. (**Daniel 3:11**)
- There exist certain Jews whom you appointed over the administration of the jurisdictional district of Babylon, Shadrach, **Meshach** and Abednego, these able-bodied men have paid no regard to you, O king, they are not serving your own gods, and the image of gold that you have set up they are not worshiping. (**Daniel 3:12**)
- At that time Nebuchadnezzar, in a rage and fury, said to bring in Shadrach, **Meshach** and Abednego. Consequently these able-bodied men were brought in before the king. (**Daniel 3:13**)
- Nebuchadnezzar was answering and saying to them; Is it really so, O Shadrach, **Meshach** and Abednego, that you are not serving my own gods, and the image of gold that I have set up you are not worshiping? (**Daniel 3:14**)
- Now if you are ready so that when you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular harp, the stringed instrument, and the bagpipe and all sorts of musical instruments, you fall down and worship the image that I have made, all right. But if you do not worship, at that same moment you will be thrown into the burning fiery furnace. And who is that god that can rescue you out of my hands? (**Daniel 3:15**)
- Shadrach, **Meshach** and Abednego answered, and they were saying to the king; O Nebuchadnezzar, we are under no necessity in this regard to say back a word to you. (**Daniel 3:16**)

- If it is to be, our God whom we are serving is able to rescue us. Out of the burning fiery furnace and out of your hand, O king, he will rescue us. ([Daniel 3:17](#))
- But if not, let it become known to you, O king, that your gods are not the ones we are serving, and the image of gold that you have set up we will not worship. ([Daniel 3:18](#))
- Then it was that Nebuchadnezzar himself got filled with fury, and the very expression of his face was changed toward Shadrach, **Meshach** and Abednego. He was answering and saying to heat up the furnace seven times more than it was customary to heat it up. ([Daniel 3:19](#))
- And to certain able-bodied men of vital energy who were in his military force he said to bind Shadrach, **Meshach** and Abednego, in order to throw them into the burning fiery furnace. ([Daniel 3:20](#))
- Then it was that these able-bodied men were bound in their mantles, their garments and their caps and their other clothing and were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. ([Daniel 3:21](#))
- Just because the king's word was harsh and the furnace was heated to excess, these able-bodied men that took up Shadrach, **Meshach** and Abednego were the ones that the fiery flame killed. ([Daniel 3:22](#))
- But these other able-bodied men, the three of them, Shadrach, **Meshach** and Abednego, fell down bound in the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ([Daniel 3:23](#))
- At that time Nebuchadnezzar the king himself became frightened and he rose up in a hurry. He was answering and saying to his high royal officials; Was it not three able-bodied men that we threw bound into the midst of the fire? They were answering and saying to the king; Yes, O king. ([Daniel 3:24](#))
- He was answering and saying; Look! I am beholding four able-bodied men walking about free in the midst of the fire, and there is no hurt to them, and the appearance of the fourth one is resembling a son of the gods. ([Daniel 3:25](#))



- Then it was that Nebuchadnezzar approached the door of the burning fiery furnace. He was answering and saying; Shadrach, **Meshach** and Abednego, you servants of the Most High God, step out and come here! At that time Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were stepping out from the midst of the fire. (**Daniel 3:26**)
- And the satraps, the prefects and the governor's and the high officials of the king that were assembled were beholding these able-bodied men, that the fire had had no power over their bodies, and not a hair of their head had been singed, and even their mantles had not been changed and the smell of fire itself had not come onto them. (**Daniel 3:27**)
- Nebuchadnezzar was answering and saying; Blessed be the God of Shadrach, **Meshach** and Abednego, who sent his angel and rescued his servants that trusted in him and that changed the very word of the king and gave over their bodies, because they would not serve and would not worship any god at all except their own God. (**Daniel 3:28**)
- And from me an order is being put through, that any people, national group or language that says anything wrong against the God of Shadrach, **Meshach** and Abednego should be dismembered, and its house should be turned into a public privy, forasmuch as there does not exist another god that is able to deliver like this one. (**Daniel 3:29**)
- At that time the king himself caused Shadrach, **Meshach** and Abednego to prosper in the jurisdictional district of Babylon. (**Daniel 3:30**)