

1. Last week I finished teaching the Doctrine of Music, summarized what the Bible had to say about volition and when time ran out I was in the process of teaching the Doctrine of Jealousy.
2. Before continuing our study I want to give you an expanded translation of Daniel chapter three verses one through twelve.

Dan 3:1 Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Chaldean Empire, constructed an image of solid gold. The tall and skinny statue was ninety feet high and nine feet wide; this image was erected in a large open area located just outside the city of Babylon in the plain of Dura, an area normally used for military and equestrian games.

Dan 3:2 Nebuchadnezzar sent couriers to every province commanding that all princes (political rulers), governors (the provincial military commanders), captains (division commanders), judges (equivalent to provincial Chief Justices), treasurers (the CFOs of each province), counsellors (prosecuting attorneys), sheriffs (district court judges), and all the rulers of the provinces (the subordinate administrators), come to a dedication ceremony.

Dan 3:3 The ostentatious entourages arrived from both near and far; in a display of great splendor; on a day ordered by the King they all assembled in the plain for the dedication ceremony, each man with his subordinates was required to stand before the image.

Dan 3:4 Then to attract the attention of the racial, geographical and linguistic entities assembled, a herald cried out the following command which was interpreted and imparted to all of those assembled:

Dan 3:5 "When you hear the sound of the cornet (brass sections), flute (woodwinds or reed instruments), harp (the ancient Kithara), sackbut (a high pitched stringed instrument), psaltery (the great grandfather of the piano), dulcimer (bagpipe) and all kinds of music (percussion instruments), you are to fall down and worship the golden image!

Dan 3:6 Those who do not worship the image will be thrown into a fiery furnace and burned alive.

Dan 3:7 The band began to play and all the people fell down and worshipped the image as commanded except for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Dan 3:8 Several members of a priestly caste peeked and noticed that there were three very conspicuous Jews who did not bow so they asked and received an audience with Nebuchadnezzar. One of the jealous priest reported that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not bow.

Dan 3:9 They greeted the King and said "O King live forever.

Dan 3:10 You have made a decree that at the sound of the band every man shall fall down and worship the golden image.

Dan 3:11 And anyone who fails to fall down and worship shall be thrown into the burning fiery furnace.

Dan 3:12 There are certain Jews whom you appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon that have not shown respect to the king. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego neither serve your gods nor worship the golden image".

3. Let's review some of that learned last week and then pick up with new material at point ten.

1. The accusers were of the priestly caste who served as advisers to the king.

2. These men resented the fact that four of the highest offices in the land had been given to Jews who were, in their eyes, mere hostages.

3. They demonstrated their pettiness and jealousy by seeking to rid the empire of these brilliant men.

4. Jealousy is one of the most vicious facets of the old sin nature.

5. When someone is successful, there are always people who are jealous.

6. If the Lord is using and blessing you, you can expect to be the object of sour grapes.

7. Jealousy is a mental attitude sin that can lead to bitterness, envy, sins of the tongue and even murder.

7.1 Jealousy can destroy anyone and can even lead to psychosis. Job 5:2;  
Pro 14:30

8. Jealousy is a common reaction.

8.1 The sin of jealousy includes covetousness, envy, the inability to accept rivalry and the inability to positively accept the prosperity of others.

8.2 The mental attitude sin of jealousy is therefore related to the sins of judgment, pride, refusing to forgive others, wanting to be first, not wanting others to have things unless you too can have the same, etc.

8.3 Jealousy, as a mental attitude sin is closely related to the terrible sin of pride.

8.4 The sin of pride is the first of the seven major sins listed in Pro 6:16-19

8.5 Rivalry is not part of God's plan because it is He who establishes authorities; He promotes and demotes. 1Ti 2:1-3; Rom 13:1-5; Psa 75:6-8

8.6 Matthew in chapter seven warns of judging; it is a terrible mental attitude sin with serious traumatic consequences and more often than not it has its dark roots in the mental attitude sin of jealousy and/or bitterness. Mat 7:1-5

8.7 God is the Mentor of every born again Christian and as such He from His omniscience and sovereignty has provided for us our very own spiritual life. It is perfect and includes a host of others who are none of our business.

8.8. Jealousy often motivates revenge and revenge puts us nose to nose with God just asking for "His knockout punch." Deu 32:35; Rom 12:19

9. The source of jealousy like all mental attitude sins is the old sin nature where mental attitude sins insidiously poison our souls.

9.1 This is understandable when one considers that the "heart" is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Jer 17:9

9.2 The Bible says even the Lord Jesus Christ is sometime preached because of jealousy and contentions as opposed to proper motivation. Phi 1:14-18

And now for new material:

10. Negative volition toward doctrine inflames the sin of jealousy.

1Ti 6:3 If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching,

1Ti 6:4 he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions.

11. Jealousy is also a sin related to unbeliever reversionism. Rom 1:28-29

Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Rom 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

12. Ill-placed pride is a direct result of rejecting doctrine and tends to motivate great jealousy.

Act 13:45 "But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy and spoke against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming".

13. Jealousy was a motivating factor in the crucifixion of Jesus.

Mar 15:10 "For He knew that the chief priest had delivered him for envy."

14. Jealousy motivated the brothers of Joseph to sell him into slavery.

Acts 7:9 "And the patriarchs, moved with envy sold Joseph into Egypt; but God was with him."

15. In Isa 11:13 jealousy is said to be a motivating factor which split the nation Israel.

Isa 11:12 He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.

Isa 11:13 Ephraim's jealousy (Qana ... in a bad sense jealous or envious) will vanish, and Judah's enemies will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim.

16. So great was the sin of jealousy between man and wife in Israel that a special offering developed. Numbers 5:11-31.

Num 5:11 Then the LORD said to Moses,

Num 5:12 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'If a man's wife goes astray and is unfaithful to him

Num 5:13 by sleeping with another man ... and her impurity is undetected

Num 5:14 and if feelings of jealousy come over her husband and he suspects his wife--or if he is jealous and suspects her even though she is not impure--

Num 5:15 then the husband will take his wife to the priest. The husband will ... prepare a grain offering for jealousy ...

Num 5:16 The priest shall ... have her stand before the LORD.

Num 5:17 Then he shall take some holy water in a clay jar and put some dust from the tabernacle floor into the water.

Num 5:18 ... the priest ... shall ... place in her hands ... the grain offering for jealousy, while he himself holds the jar of bitter water that brings a curse.

Num 5:19 Then the priest shall put the woman under oath and say to her, "If no other man has slept with you and you have not gone astray and become impure while married to your husband, may this bitter water that brings a curse not harm you.

Num 5:20 But if you have gone astray while married to your husband and you have defiled yourself by sleeping with a man other than your husband ..."

Num 5:21 ... "may the LORD cause your people to curse and denounce you when he causes your thigh to waste away and your abdomen to swell.

Num 5:22 May this water that brings a curse enter your body so that your abdomen swells and your thigh waste away."Then the woman is to say,"Amen. So be it . . .

Num 5:24 He shall have the woman drink the bitter water . . .

Num 5:27 If she has defiled herself ... her abdomen will swell and her thigh waste away, and she will become accursed among her people.

Num 5:28 If, however, the woman has not defiled herself and is free from impurity, she will be cleared of guilt and will be able to have children.

Num 5:29 "This, then, is the law of jealousy when a woman goes astray and defiles herself while married to her husband,

Num 5:30 or when feelings of jealousy come over a man because he suspects his wife . .

17. The sin of jealousy is self-destructive.

Proverbs 14:30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh; but jealousy, the rotting of the bones.

18. Jealousy is designated in the scripture as a devastating sin.

Prov 27:4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous, but who is able to stand before jealousy?

19. Jealously prevailed in David's kingdom. The 10 tribes in the north were jealous of Judah in the south.

2Sa 19:41 Soon all the men of Israel were coming to the king and saying to him, "Why did our brothers, the men of Judah, steal the king away and bring him and his household across the Jordan, together with all his men?"

2Sa 19:42 All the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "We did this because the king is closely related to us. Why are you angry about it? Have we eaten any of the king's provisions? Have we taken anything for ourselves.

20. We must never retaliate against jealous people; they are destroying themselves with envy by their attempt to discredit you!

21. Besides, the Scripture makes clear that the battle is the Lord's and vengeance belongs with God.

1Sa 17:47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give all of you into our hands."

Rom 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Rom 12:19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Rom 12:20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

22. The Chaldean Priests were consumed with jealousy; so they "accused"!

22.1 Actually, the priests (Chaldeans) were not merely trying to accuse Daniel's three friends; they wanted to see all Jews condemned to death!

22.2 So they catered to the king, flattering him with the customary flowery address, "O king live forever" but their mental attitude said, "O king, let these men die!"

23. Note in verse 12 that the Chaldeans began their approach in a very subtle manner. Instead of naming the offenders immediately, they spoke of "certain Jews"- implying that these men were of an inferior race.

Dan 3:12 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, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

24. This was a manifestation of anti-Semitism--another tool of Satan!

24.1 Finally, the subtleties were dropped, and the Jews were identified as those whom the king had set over the affairs of the province of Babylon.

25. The innuendo, these Jews were unworthy of their high positions, and perhaps Nebuchadnezzar had made a mistake!

26. The accusation also inferred the accused were ungrateful for the honor the king had conferred, this they alleged was obvious by their disobedience to the King's royal command.

27. A malicious and implacable mental attitude always motivates people to malign and accuse others. The world is filled with people who have it in for others.

28. We must not react to such people. We cannot spend our lives worrying about what others think.

28.1 We must live our lives as unto the Lord.

Col 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Rom 14:8 If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Let's me give you a point or two here about anti-Semitism:

1. God has promised in Genesis 12:1-3 that He will handle all discipline of the Jewish race.

Gen 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

Gen 12:2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will multiply your name great, and you will be a blessing.

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

2. The historical manifestations of antisemitism show a definite correlation between the rise and fall of nations and empires.

3. There are different kinds of Jews. There are:

3.1 Racial Jews - one who is descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

3.2 Religious Jews - one who adopts Judaism.

3.3 Regenerate Jews or real Jews--one who is no longer a Jew but a member of the royal family of God (Rom. 9:6-14 and Gal 3:28).

Rom 9:6 It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.

Rom 9:7 Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."

Rom 9:8 In other words, it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.

Rom 9:9 For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

Rom 9:10 Not only that, but Rebekah's children had one and the same father, our father Isaac.

Rom 9:11 Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad--in order that God's purpose in election might stand:

Rom 9:12 not by works but by him who calls--she was told, "The older will serve the younger."

Rom 9:13 Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

Rom 9:14 What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all!

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

4. How to evaluate Jews (or, how to evaluate anyone):

4.1 As an individual member of the human race.

4.2 As a nation (Israel today is admirable for its strong anticommunist stand).

4.3 As citizens (they must be judged by their understanding and commitment to the principles of their national entity).

Now let's look further into the King's reaction:

Dan 3:13 This caused Nebuchadnezzar to be hot with anger and he commanded that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be brought to him.

Dan 3:14 The King asked them: Is it intentional that you do not worship my gods and have disobeyed my decree to worship the golden image.

1. The ingratitude gimmick was used at exactly the right moment for Nebuchadnezzar's old sin nature was working overtime.

2. The insinuations against Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego served the Chaldeans' purpose. Nebuchadnezzar never once doubted the accuracy of the Priests accusation.

3. He judged the three Jews guilty without first establishing the facts. No leader can make a correct estimate of a situation while he is under the influence of rage, anger or other emotions.

4. Leadership requires a cool head and a tight rein on his or her emotions. Objectivity must characterize the judgment of a person who is in authority, or else the entire organization will suffer.

5. Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be arrested and brought to the palace. They brought the three friends of Daniel to the king (Dan 3:13).

Dan 3:13 This caused Nebuchadnezzar to be hot with anger and he commanded that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be brought to him.

6. Normally Nebuchadnezzar was a very fair minded man; but now his ego had been affronted, and he was consumed with rage and fury.

7. "Rage" (REGAZ) is a mental attitude sin of anger. "Fury" (CHEMAH) means "heat caused by wine" and is the result of rage.

7.1 The king was not only angry he was "hot" and totally emotional about the whole thing!

8. Let me give you a review of our *Doctrine of Anger*.

1. Anger can be a mental attitude precluding rational thought. As a sin it will block the intake of doctrine and even the use of doctrine already cycled.

1.1 Anger can also so be innocuous, just a fleeting emotion.

1.2 Anger happens to everyone.

1.3 All people are subject to anger.

1.4 Consequently the believer must maintain an awareness that anger can be a sin; if it keeps hanging around and the Holy Spirit reveals it as sin then like all sins it must be rebounded.

1.5 We must not think we have to wait until we stop seething before we can confess.

End Lesson Taught 3-18-2001