



# Stand or surrender

January 22, 2018

**DANIEL 3:7 NKJV – (7)** So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

**1 John 2:18** speaks of the Antichrist: “Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.” The specific term *antichrist* is used seven times in Scripture, twice here in **1 John 2:18** and also in **1 John 2:22; 4:3**; and twice **2 John 7**. So, what is this Antichrist that the apostle John refers to?

The meaning of the term *antichrist* is simply “against Christ.” As the apostle John records in First and Second John, an antichrist denies the Father and the Son (**1 John 2:22**), does not acknowledge Jesus (**1 John 4:3**), and denies that Jesus came in the flesh (**2 John 1:7**). There have been many “antichrists,” as **1 John 2:18** states. But there is also coming *the* Antichrist.

We, the true children of the living God, must stand for righteousness! King Nebuchadnezzar was an example of an Anti-Christ. Look at his behavior, expectations, requirements and demands towards all people who under him.

**DANIEL 3:1** - Nebuchadnezzar erects an image and demands everyone worship it.

- Read **John 8:32**

**DANIEL 3:2-3** - All Babylonia's dignitaries gathered at the dedication of the image.

- Satrap is a Persian loan word that means “protector of the realm.” It refers to a specific category of public officials.
- All the officials of the provinces were ordered to attend the dedication of the image.

**DANIEL 3:4-7** - The command to worship the image.

- The motive for the worship - the demand that all come to the dedication ceremony means that Nebuchadnezzar meant to use the worship of this image as a test of allegiance.
- The musical instruments. The term “666.” (**Revelations 13:3**).
- How is the mark of the beast placed on someone's right hand or forehead? (**Revelation 13:16**) Regarding his commands to the nation of Israel, God said: “Bind them as a reminder on your hand, and they should be like a headband on your forehead.” (**Deuteronomy 11:18**) This meant, not that the Israelites were to mark their literal hands and foreheads, but that God's words would guide all their actions and thoughts. Likewise, rather than being something literal such as a 666 tattoo, the mark of the beast symbolically identifies those who let the political system rule their lives. Those with the mark of the beast place themselves in opposition to God.—**Revelation 14:9, 10; 19:19-21**.
- Read the story about the three Hebrews boys.

The spirit of the Anti-Christ is in effect. As a child of the true and living God, will you stand for righteousness or will you stand with the enemy? Will your faith take you all the way? Read **Hebrews 11:32-39**. When you make a stand you may face much fury for your beliefs. Such fury consists of the following:

- **Inducement of society** - People look to you for blame, alienating you. You are perceived as the enemy, however the truth is they desire to be with the norm of society.
- **Enforcement of government** – There are rules that we have been called to follow according to man, but are unjust.
- **Requirement of punishment** – When you choose to follow righteousness, one can expect to be punished.
- **Read HEBREWS 11:35b (Others)**

**CONCLUSION:** When one stands for righteousness, one must be prepared to face the furnace.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** ISAIAH 57:19

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Remember, a focused mind on God leaves no place for the devil.