

“Best Laid Plans...”

“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.” (Proverbs 19:21)

The Self-Will Statue

Daniel 3:1 – “King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.”

Jump on My Bandwagon

Daniel 3:2-6 – (2) “Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. (3) Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. (4) And the herald proclaimed aloud, ‘You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, (5) that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.’”

Nervous Compliance

Daniel 3:6-7 – (6) “And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. (7) Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.”

Our Grotesque Statues:

(1) Social Status

John 12:42-43 – (42) “Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; (43) for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.” (NIV)

Galatians 1:10 – “For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

(2) Financial “Security”

Proverbs 18:11 – “A rich man’s wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination.”

1 Timothy 6:9-10 – (9) “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. (10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”

(3) Confidence in Flesh

Psalms 146:3-4 – (3) “Don’t put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there. (4) When they breathe their last, they return to the earth, and all their plans die with them.” (NLT)

(4) Longevity

Ecclesiastes 8:8 – “None of us can hold back our spirit from departing. None of us has the power to prevent the day of our death. There is no escaping that obligation, that dark battle. And in the face of death, wickedness will certainly not rescue the wicked.” (NLT)

Luke 12:25 – “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

(This message is available for review and sharing at alivein.me)