



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Faithful Through The Fiery Trial (Daniel 3)

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God tests, Satan tempts! God may put his child through a test, or He may allow you to be tested. This could be to grow your character or to give Him glory. Daniel's report on the fiery furnace does both. Can you remember a life trial where God's provision or purpose was evident?

INTRODUCTION

God brought judgment on Israel in 605 B.C. by giving them over to Babylon, the world power of the time.

People were resettled, including Daniel and his three teenaged friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

They were put through an accelerated leadership program and promoted to positions as advisors.

God enabled Daniel to interpret a futuristic dream of King Nebuchadnezzar's.

The dream was of a statue which displayed the king as the first of a series conquering nations ending with God's Messiah as eternal ruler.

The revelation resulted in Daniel being promoted to chief advisor and those friends as state administrators.

The nation prospered during the next twenty years and the King built a huge statue for his own glory. **Have you seen a leader take glory for team success?**

THE GOLDEN IDOL

Daniel 3:1 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plane of Dura. (NIV)

All government leaders in the region were required to come to the dedication.

Daniel, as emphasis, twice reported the titles of those summoned and the musical instruments featured.

The announcer loudly proclaimed that all people, every time they hear the instruments, are ordered to bow, and worship the idol. It was a death penalty to refuse.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not bow and worship the statue. Some of the wise men reported this to the king. **Have you seen a situation where subordinates or others conspired to destroy a leader?**

TRUSTING GOD IN THE TRIAL

Daniel 3:16-18 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." (NIV)

The king was furious with the three men and ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter.

Soldiers were ordered to bind up the fully clothed men and throw them into the blazing furnace.

Their haste and the excessive heat killed those soldiers as the three young men fell into the furnace.

The king asked in amazement if there were not three men tied and thrown in. He saw four walking around in there and the fourth looked like a son of the gods.

Is this an image of men being saved from hell?

GOD GETS THE GLORY

Daniel 3:26-27 ...come out you servants of the Most High God, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the midst of the fire. The satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's officials gathered around and saw that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them. (NASB)

Nebuchadnezzar blessed the God who sent His angel to rescue His three servants. The king commended the three friends who violated his command to worship the image of a false god. He promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Can you share of an effective witness for God through a season of trial and testing?

A PRAYER

Almighty God, please carry me through the testing and trials ahead and empower me to finish well in my work and in my life. I pray in the Name of Jesus. Amen!