

Spiritual Growth Questions for March 26, 2023

Opener: In the past, what have been your strongest impressions of this story about the three young men throw into the fiery furnace?

1. Read Daniel 3:1-7. How would you describe the image Nebuchadnezzar set up on the plain of Dura? What do you think motivated the king to erect such an image? What did he command the crowd at the ceremony to do? What was the penalty if they refused? What are some of the gods that vie for our worship today?

2. Read Daniel 3:8-12, Exodus 20:3-6. How would the king's command have presented a moral dilemma for the exiles from Israel. (Exodus 20:3-6.) If you had been one of the exiles, how do you think you would have responded to the king's command? Explain your answer. What do you think motivated the Chaldeans to make malicious accusations? List as many as you can think of.

3. Read Daniel 3:13-18. Did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego know for certain that God would save them this time? What does this say about their faith? Have you ever taken a bold or risky stand for God? What was that like for you? When God doesn't deliver us from dangers, trials, disease, or even death, does that mean he has abandoned us? Why or why not?

4. Read Daniel 3:19-25. How did Nebuchadnezzar respond after Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego told him they would not bow to his image? What details from 3:19-23 suggest that the king was not acting rationally? Who do you think the fourth man in the furnace was? (**See Isaiah 43:2-3**)

5. Read Daniel 3:26-30. What stands out about Nebuchadnezzar's response to their deliverance? What is different in his attitude at the beginning of the chapter? Why is this important for us to remember? 3:29 Compare there is no other God who rescues this way with **Acts 4:12**.

6. "God will see his people through". How does this particular message reassure you today? What people do you know who have risked everything by standing for Christ? Pray for them. Consider writing them a note of encouragement and appreciation this week.

Deeper Study: Read Ephesians 3:16-21. Pray this prayer inserting your name as the target of the prayer. Prayer: Lord Jesus, this is my prayer to you today. That you will empower me with inner strength through your Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in my heart as I trust in Him. That my roots will grow down into Your love and keep me strong. And that I would have the power to understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep Your love is. May I experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to fully understand. Thank you for making me complete with fullness of life and your power. I give you all the glory. Thank you for doing a mighty work within me to accomplish so much more than I might ever ask or even think about.

Living for God in a Broken World: A Study of Daniel There will be troubles: God will see you through Dan. 3:1-30 March 26, 2023, Pastor John Lloyd

How do we live for God in ungodly times-like our own. Is it worth standing firm and obeying God when His kingdom seems so far away? How can we live courageously and confidently in nations that do not seek to live under God's rule? How is it possible to be a blessing to our nations and show the power and goodness of our God, even in a time such as ours? This is the context that Daniel found himself in. This story will exalt God as king and His kingdom in ways that will ultimately find their fulfillment in Jesus. Today, we will find Daniel's three friends in trouble. They are commanded to worship a 90ft statue that the king had erected. In spite of all appearances, God is in control. We will see that God's power transcends even death. My prayer is that this message will bring you courage to know that God will see you through.

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. 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. 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. 8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. 9 They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! 10 You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. 11 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. 12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." 13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready

when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

3:1-7 Nebuchadnezzar's image of gold, 3:8-12 accusation against the three friends, 3:13-18 confrontation with Nebuchadnezzar, 3:19-27 the miraculous deliverance, 3:28-30 Nebuchadnezzar worships God.

Big Idea: There will be troubles in this life, but God will see us through.

- There is no shortage of areas that we _____ to see us through.

John 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." **Read Daniel 3:1-7.**

"You will worship *when* I say" "You will worship *how* I say."
"You will worship *what* I say" "I will say *who* can worship" (Gen.3:5, 11:4)

Daniel 3:8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. 3:12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Sound of the horn and instruments vs.5,7,10 & 15 heightens the tension
Who is on the throne of your life? Bill Bright

By the power of the Holy Spirit, I will not worship their gods and make them the ultimate. Show me any area where this is happening.

- II. We may not know _____ God will see us through!

Daniel 3:15b And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?" 16b we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

If certainty of outcomes determined the quality of faith, then Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had inferior faith. Not one of them claimed to know for certain that they would not be burned alive. They were concerned only with how to respond to their circumstances in godly ways. Regardless of what the king did to them- and did not claim to know what that would be-they would obey God. Tremper Longman

Hebrews 11:34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— Psalm 23:4 Though I walk through the valley of death.

Ask God to show you exactly where the conflict really is. Face it with trust and obedience to God. God will see you through!

- III. We may not _____ all _____ but God is with us seeing us through.

Daniel 3:24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." 25 He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods." (Mt.28:20)

I Peter 1:7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 55:7-11)
Daniel 3:29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, **for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.**"

Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
Hebrews 11:6 God rewards those who seek Him.

What is most difficult in your life at the moment? Are you tempted to see it as judgment? What would change if you viewed it as refinement, as proving the genuineness of your faith? Am I remembering God in my dark times?
Help me see my difficulties as refinement instead of judgment. I will trust and obey, whatever may come. God will see me through!