

Part 8

Daniel 3:16-30

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16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, it is not necessary for us to answer you on this point. 17 If our God Whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace. He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up! [Job 13:15; Acts 4:19, 20.] 19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury and his facial expression was changed [to antagonism] against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Therefore he commanded that the furnace should be heated seven times hotter than it was usually heated. 20 And he commanded the strongest men in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. 21 Then these [three] men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics or undergarments, their turbans, and their other clothing, and they were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. 22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame and sparks from the fire killed those men who handled Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the burning fiery furnace. 24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king [saw and] was astounded, and he jumped up and said to his counselors, Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered, True, O king. 25 He answered, Behold, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt! And the form of the fourth is like a son of the gods! [Phil. 2:5-8.] 26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you servants of the Most High God, come out and come here. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the midst of the fire. 27 And the satraps, the deputies, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered around together and saw these men—that the fire had no power upon their bodies, nor was the hair of their head singed; neither were their garments scorched or changed in color or condition, nor had even the smell of smoke clung to them. 28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who believed in, trusted in, and relied on Him! And they set aside the king's command and yielded their bodies rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, and

language that speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be cut in pieces and their houses be made a dunghill, for there is no other God who can deliver in this way! 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Let's talk about Faith for a moment. What about you, do you have the faith that these young men had? Could you stand your ground on the things of God as they did?

I once heard faith broken down like this: **Freedom**

After

Intentionally

Trusting

Him

Think about that for a moment! **What do you put your trust in? A person? A job? A Government? In Whom or in What does your trust lie?**

Dr. David Jeremiah had this to say about this passage of scripture. "One of the greatest statements of faith in all the Bible is found in this passage. The three Hebrew friends simply stood their ground and told the king they would serve their God to the end, regardless of the outcome. That is the kind of faith that is desperately needed today."

Here are examples in scripture.

1 Sam. 17: 37 ESV David preparing to meet Goliath in battle. 37 And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!"

Is. 26: 2-4 CSB The Song of Judah 2 Open the gates so a righteous nation can come in—one that remains faithful. 3 You will keep the mind that is dependent on you in perfect peace, for it is trusting in you. 4 Trust in the Lord forever, BECAUSE in the Lord, the Lord himself, is an everlasting rock!

2 Cor. 1:8-12 ESV For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia; For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

Charles Spurgeon in talking about Daniel 3:25 “He exclaimed, ‘Look! I see four men, not tied, walking around the fire unharmed; and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.’” CSB A fourth man in the furnace was so bright and glorious that even the heathen eyes of Nebuchadnezzar could discern a supernatural luster about him. “The fourth,” he said, “looks like a son of the gods.” *We must go into the furnace if we would have the nearest and dearest dealings with Christ Jesus.* Whenever the Lord appears, it is to his people when they are in a militant posture. Moses saw God at Horeb, but it was a burning bush (Ex 3); Joshua saw him, but it was with a drawn sword in his hand, to show that his people are still a militant people (Jos 5:13); and here where the saints saw their Savior, it was as Himself in the furnace. The richest thought a Christian perhaps can live on is this—Christ is in the furnace with him. When we suffer, Christ suffers. No member of the body can be pained without the head enduring in portion. And so we, as members of Christ’s body, in every pain we feel, pains the head, Christ Jesus. He takes us through no rooms so dark but what He is, Himself, there in the darkness, and makes that darkness by His presence light, cheering and gladdening our hearts.

What is the purpose of these trials or testing that we have seen so far in Daniel?

Is. 43:1-4 CSB 1 Now this is what the Lord says—the one who created you, Jacob, and the one who formed you, Israel---“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and the rivers will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, and the flame will not burn you. 3 For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, and your Savior. I have given Egypt as a ransom for you, Cush and Seba in your place. 4 Because you are precious in

my sight and honored, and I love you, I will give people in exchange for you and nations instead of your life.

Psalms 34:1-22 CSB THE LORD DELIVERS THE RIGHTEOUS *Concerning David, when he pretended to be insane in the presence of Abimelech, who drove him out, and he departed.*

1 I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. 2 I will boast in the Lord; the humble will hear and be glad. 3 Proclaim the Lord's greatness with me; let us exalt his name together. 4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me and rescued me from all my fears. 5 Those who look to him are radiant with joy; their faces will never be ashamed. 6 This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him from all his troubles. 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and rescues them. 8 Taste and see that the Lord is good. How happy is the person who takes refuge in Him! 9 You who are his holy ones, fear the Lord, for those who fear him lack nothing. 10 Young lions lack food and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord will not lack any good thing. 11 Come, children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. 12 Who is someone who desires life, loving a long life to enjoy what is good? 13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from deceitful speech. 14 Turn away from evil and do what is good; seek peace and pursue it. 15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry for help. 16 The face of the lord is set against those who do what is evil, to remove all memory of them from the earth. 17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. 18 The Lord is near the brokenhearted; he saves those crushed in spirit. 19 One who is righteous has many adversities, but the Lord rescues him from them all. 20 He protects all his bones; not one of them is broken. 21 Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be punished. 22 The Lord redeems the life of his servants, and all who take refuge in him will not be punished.

So why do people go thru trials and testing like we see these three Hebrew friends go thru?

Dr. David Jeremiah puts it this way. "The fire had not had any power over the bodies of these men because the real Power in the universe intervened. The purpose of trials and testing is to glorify God, but it is also to purify His servants. Whenever a child of God is purified, he or she prospers. Whenever God puts His child in the furnace, His purpose is to drain off all the dross so that he or she

comes out as pure gold.” This is what we have seen time and time again. The test or trial comes and then promotion follows just as we see here.

Many times when tests and trials come you see the best and worst come out of people.

The goal is to grow to the point where our attitudes pure as our greatest example Jesus Christ as talked about in Phil 2:5-11 CSB 5 Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, 6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. 7 Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, 8 he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross. 9 **For this reason** God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 **so that** at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—11 and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Read 2 Peter 3 from the Renner Interpretive Version (A conceptual Interpretation of the Greek New Testament with footnotes and commentary) A PARALLEL STUDY BIBLE FOR PEOPLE OF FAITH. Written by Rick Renner. You can get a copy at [Renner Ministries.com](http://RennerMinistries.com).