

Daniel 3

"Nebuchadnezzar the king... made an image of gold and set it up..." (3:1)

A declaration of "his" sovereignty...

An embodiment of his pride...

Perhaps to counter the prophesy...

Idol!

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Daniel 3

"Nebuchadnezzar the king... made an image of gold and set it up..." (3:1)

Huge!

Imposing!

No apparent way to bypass it!

It was to become a "test by fire!"

Idol!

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Daniel 3

(1:2) At this time some certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to Nebuchadnezzar the king, "May the king live forever!"

Jealousy!

Manipulation!

Idol!

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Daniel 3

(1:2) At this time some certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to Nebuchadnezzar the king, "May the king live forever!"

Your Majesty has issued a decree

But there are some Jews...

Idol!

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Daniel 3

(1:2) At this time some certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to Nebuchadnezzar the king, "May the king live forever!"

Your Majesty has issued a decree

But there are some Jews...

"They do not serve your gods nor worship the golden image you have set up!"

Idol!


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Daniel 3

Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them,

"Is it true?"


On the stand! Pointedly asked!



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Scripture Reading:

Daniel 3:16-30



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Daniel 3

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar..."

Christopher Wright

"They use his simple name... No titles! No honorifics! No optimistic "OKing live forever!"



They address him as a man, nothing more. He might have a 90' statue beside him, but in the underwear beneath all his robes and gold plate... despite all his absurd claims, he was just Nebuchadnezzar!

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Daniel 3


Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar..."

we do not need to rethink our answer or defend ourselves before you in this matter.

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve...

1 Samuel 2:18; 3:1

"Samuel ministered unto the Lord in his service unto Eli the priest..."



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Colossians 3:23

"In whatever you do, do your work heartily as unto the Lord, offering your service unto Him, rather than men..."



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Daniel 3

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar..."

we do not need to rethink our answer or defend ourselves before you in this matter.


If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able.

Daniel 2:26

"Are you able?"

Daniel 3:15

"What God is able?"



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Daniel 3

*Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied,
"O Nebuchadnezzar..."*

*we do not need to rethink our answer or defend
ourselves before you in this matter.*

*If we are thrown into the blazing
furnace, the God we serve is able*

***Our God is
Able!***



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Daniel 3

*Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied,
"O Nebuchadnezzar..."*

*we do not need to rethink our answer or defend
ourselves before you in this matter.*

*If we are thrown into the blazing
furnace, the God we serve is able*

*"Jesus looked at them
and said...
with God all things are
possible."
Matthew 19:26*




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Daniel 3

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"O Nebuchadnezzar..."*

*we do not need to rethink our answer or defend
ourselves before you in this matter.*

*If we are thrown into the blazing
furnace, the God we serve is able
to deliver us from it...*




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Daniel 3

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"O Nebuchadnezzar..."*

*we do not need to rethink our answer or defend
ourselves before you in this matter.*

*If we are thrown into the blazing
furnace, the God we serve is able
to deliver us from it...
and He will deliver us from
Your Majesty's hand.*




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Daniel 3

*Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied,
"O Nebuchadnezzar..."*

*we do not need to rethink our answer or defend
ourselves before you in this matter.*

*If we are thrown into the blazing
furnace, the God we serve is able
to deliver us from it...
and He will deliver us from
Your Majesty's hand.
But even if He does not...*




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Daniel 3

*Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied,
"O Nebuchadnezzar..."*

*we do not need to rethink our answer or defend
ourselves before you in this matter.*

*If we are thrown into the blazing
furnace, the God we serve is able
to deliver us from it...
and He will deliver us from
Your Majesty's hand.
But even if He does not, we want
you to know, Your Majesty, that
we will not serve your gods or
worship the image of gold
you have set up."*



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Daniel 3

They trusted and had faith in God, not in their expectation of His response!

Our God is Able!

..and..

Our God is Sovereign!



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Daniel 3

They trusted and had faith in God, not in their expectation of His response!

"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."
Job 13:15



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Daniel 3

They trusted and had faith in God, not in their expectation of His response!

"Choose you this day whom you will serve..."
Joshua 24:15



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Daniel 3

They trusted and had faith in God, not in their expectation of His response!

"If it be possible, remove this cup from Me. But Your will, not mine!"
Luke 22:42



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Daniel 3

They trusted and had faith in God, not in their expectation of His response!

Acts 12:1-2; 7-9

"About that time King Herod Agrippa began to persecute some believers in the church. He had the apostle James (John's brother) killed with a sword. When Herod saw how much this pleased the Jewish people, he also arrested Peter.

So Peter left the cell, following the angel..."



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Nebuchadnezzar's Response

Rage!

Explosive anger!

Facial expression changed!

Galatians 5:19-20

The deeds of the flesh are evident...

Idolatry... hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition..."



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Nebuchadnezzar's Response
Rage!
Explosive anger!
Facial expression changed!
Vindictive, retaliatory!

"He ordered the furnace heated 7 times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace..."



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Nebuchadnezzar's Response
Rage!
Explosive anger!
Facial expression changed!
Vindictive, retaliatory!

"He ordered the furnace heated 7 times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace... Because the king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot, the flames of the fire killed the valiant soldiers who took them up..."



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Nebuchadnezzar's Response
Rage!
Urgent... but not useful!
How often do our responses, rooted in the flesh, cost rather than serve us?

... army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace... Because the king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot, the flames of the fire killed the valiant soldiers who took them up..."




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Daniel 3

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"


"Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, loosed and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."



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1 Peter 1:7

"These trials you face have come so that the genuineness of your faith may be tested and proven to be of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire. They will result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."



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Psalms 12:6-7

"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."




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Jeremiah 23:39
"Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD,
'and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"




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Isaiah 43:2-3
"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, And
through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you
walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the
flame burn you. "For I am the Lord your God, The Holy
One of Israel, your Savior..."



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A 4th Man
"One from outside his expectations...
Outside his authority...
Outside his experiences...
As the "rock" of his dream... a stone "not cut by human hands"
Daniel 2:34, 44-45



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Daniel 3
Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise to the God of
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to
rescue his servants who trusted in him. They defied the
king's command and were willing to die rather than serve or
worship any god except their own God!"



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So... what will you do with this God?
Nebuchadnezzar
Pride -> Anger/Rage -> Astonishment -> Conviction



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