

Dan05 - Fiery Trials - Dan 3:1-30

God USES the FIRE of our Trials - For GOOD

Sometimes - WHEN the Fire of our Trials is SO HOT
we think for sure - We are going to be DESTROYED

It's Right at THAT TIME - that We actually end up
MEETING the LORD in the MIDST of the Fire

God USES the FIRE of our Trials - For GOOD

He'll use them - For OUR GOOD - & For HIS GLORY

IF - we will JOIN Him in what He's doing

IF - we will TRUST Him in what He's doing

IF - We will have the Unbending FAITH - to MEET Him -
Right in the MIDST of the FIRE of our Tribulation

God will Take us THRU the Deep Waters

He will Take us THRU the Fiery Trials

AND . . . - WE HAVE A PART - We have ROLE

Our PART - is to NEVER BOW

We must Take Our STAND for God - TRUSTING Him Completely -

No MATTER WHAT the Circumstances look like

We must NEVER - Bend the Knee

To our Own Flesh - or the Temptations of this World

God USES the FIRE of our Trials - For GOOD

Let's Pray

Yrs ago - an Archeologist discovered - The MOUNDS of DURA

A Brick structure 45 ft long and 20 ft high

w/ the appearance of being a HUGE Pedestal -

Right In the place the Bible says a 90ft Statue once stood

In Dan Ch 2 - King Nebuchadnezzar had a DREAM:

of a Huge Statue with a Head of GOLD -

that Daniel told him represented him & his Babylonian Empire

Now - Possibly up to 15 yrs later - & it seems like

the dream had been GNAWING at Nebuchadnezzar

& finally he decided - WHY am I JUST the Head of Gold -

I want to be the ENTIRE Statue of GOLD -

& I CAN BE - I'll just make MY OWN Statue

Daniel 3:1 (nlt)

1 King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue ninety feet tall and nine feet wide and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

A Massive Gold Statue - 90ft tall & 9 ft wide -
placed on a 20 ft high Pedestal

It seems like - Nebuchadnezzar was doing

what SO MANY Rulers since him have done

He was trying to UNIFY his kingdom - RELIGIOUSLY - - -

& what Better Deity to Worship than - HIMSELF

They say Hitler was moving toward the same thing

& we KNOW the AntiChrist will do this exact same thing

So - King NEBE erects a 90ft Gold Statue of himself

Daniel 3:2 (nlt)

2 Then he sent messages to the high officers, officials, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the provincial officials to come to the dedication of the statue he had set up.

These are ALL the OFFICIALS of Babylon

Of which Daniel had made Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego

Daniel 3:3-5 (nlt)

3 So all these officials came and stood before the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4 Then a herald shouted out, “People of all races and nations and languages, listen to the king’s command!

5 When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments, bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar’s gold statue.

The First Ruler Of The World - Wanted to be Worshipped as a Deity & not much has changed since 600BC

& then Nebuchadnezzar attached his “Signature Motivation”

Daniel 3:6-7 (nlt)

6 Anyone who refuses to obey will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.”

7 So at the sound of the musical instruments, all the people, whatever their race or nation or language, bowed to the ground and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

But - it seems SOME of the Officials were “Bowing” with One Eye OPEN

**Because the KING'S Wisemen - were keeping an EYE
on the HEBREW Wisemen**

**& Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego
REFUSED TO BOW to this Statue of Gold**

Daniel 3:8 (nlt)

8 But some of the astrologers went to the king and informed on the Jews.

**These are the guys who - back in of Ch 2
couldn't interpret the King's Dream**

**& apparently there was some HURT EGO'S over that
Especially when Daniel & his Friends were elevated OVER them**

Now - I'd like to FOCUS on this a minute

**Because I've actually been PUT into FIERY TRIALS
by people with the same motives as these pin-head astrologers
(*Maybe some of you have as well*)**

**This happens NOT ONLY in the World's Workplace
but it also happens TOO MUCH in church**

**& it USED to make me SICK every time I saw it
now it just makes me CYNICAL**

**& so - If this has happened to you
in the WORKPLACE or in CHURCH - this is for you**

Daniel 3:9-12 (nlt)

9 They (the astrologers) said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "Long live the king!" (enough pleasantries - now down to business)

10 You issued a decree requiring all the people to bow down and worship the gold statue when they hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments.
11 That decree also states that those who refuse to obey must be thrown into a blazing furnace. (remember, remember?)
12 But there are some Jews—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—whom you have put in charge of the province of Babylon (sense any animosity there?). **They pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up.”**

nah, nah, nah, nah, nah, nah - Now we'll **SHOW** you **little Hebrews**

This is pretty **standard Worldly Politics** -
which is **why** it's so **disgusting** when you **see it** in the **Church**

These guys were “**One-Up'd**” by **Daniel** & **Friends** in the **Dream Ch**

& **now** they **see** an **opportunity**
to **GET BACK** to **where** they **once belonged**

They see a **way** to **Get** their **POSITION BACK** -
& to **IMPROVE** their **STANDING** with the **KING**

Maybe you've **had this happen** in the **Workplace**
I've HAD it **happen** to **me** in “**Church Politics**” - *more than once*

Someone - trying to **climb some** perceived “**LADDER**”
by **PILE UP the bodies** of others - for **them** to **climb on**

Many a church Leader
Has **been ATTACKED** & **SLANDERED**

By people who **Almost ALWAYS**
have some **ULTERIOR MOTIVE**

& if YOU Find yourself - in that TYPE of FIERY TRIAL - *Please*,
DO NOT BOW to that nonsense

Do NOT be moved by flesh-focused people with Ulterior Motives
trying to make Themselves look GOOD - by making You look BAD

It's the oldest approach in the "Promote your Sinful Self" Play-Book

DO NOT be Moved by it - & DO NOT Bow to it -
STAY Faithful to God - & God will bring you thru that Fire!

Whatever FIERY TRIAL You are on the Edge of today

We have GOT - to Keep our Eyes Firmly FIXED
on God's Eternal Purpose - & God's Eternal PLAN

Because (Listen Please) God is always AT WORK
in ways we CAN'T SEE - & in ways We DON'T UNDERSTAND

So - Trust God - STAND FIRM in Him Alone - & We MUST NOT BOW
(in any way) to the FIERY TRIALS that confront us

So now - it looks like the "Jealous Revenge Plan" of the Wisemen
Might actually WORK

Daniel 3:13-15 (nlt)

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage (just as planned) and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him. When they were brought in,

14 Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up?"

15 I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?

***Ohhh - that last sentence is a BIG MISTAKE
And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?***

***THIS is a SHOWDOWN - The Battle Lines are DRAWN -
& God has put these 3 - in the CROSS-HAIRS of the World***

THIS Is Their MOMENT - THIS is their CHANCE

THIS Is their OPPORTUNITY to Genuinely bring Glory to GOD !!

NOT to promote themselves - NOT to LIFT themselves UP

But a chance to Truly DEMONSTRATE

What Level of Genuine FAITH they have in God

HOW ?? - - HOW do they DO IT ?

Will they RISE UP & Preach an Equally FIERY SERMON

Will they CONFRONT their Accusers - & Dismantle them

Or will they Demonstrate

Miraculous TRUST & FAITH in GOD ??

***I pray - when we find ourselves confronted by Our Own Fiery Trial
that we would RESPOND the SAME Way these 3 did***

Here is our EXAMPLE to FOLLOW

Daniel 3:16 (nlt)

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you.

How many times have we been able to say - *in Perfect PEACE*
We DO NOT Need to Defend ourselves in this situation?

Instead - How often are our Actions *totally DEFINED*
by our desire to DEFEND ourselves?

Many of us - Have gotten Extremely GOOD at Defending ourselves

In fact - we’ve gotten so good at it
we wouldn’t TRUST God to Defend us

Because we don’t think He’d do AS GOOD a job as WE Would

But - THAT is NOT the way God is Glorified
& It’s NOT the way these 3 Handled it

WATCH CLOSELY - HOW they DID Handle it!

Daniel 3:16 (again) - & 17 (nlt)

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you.

17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty.

Look Carefully here - *the God whom we serve is ABLE to save us - & THEN - He WILL rescue us from your HAND (power)*

He is **ABLE** to **SAVE us** - &
He **WILL RESCUE us** from your **HAND**

Please hear me - if **you BELONG** to **God** Today
because you've **put** your **FULL Faith** in **Jesus Christ**

Then God WILL Ultimately RESCUE you from your **TRIALS**

He WILL Ultimately Rescue you
Because **HIS Rescue** is **Already Complete**
His **Rescue** was **FINISHED** - **On the CROSS**

The WORK of your Complete RESCUE is Finished
The **PRICE** has been **PAID**
& **your REWARD** is **secure** & **waiting** for you in **Heaven**

AND - In **addition** to your **Ultimate Rescue** - **God** is **ABLE**
to **SAVE you** from your **Current Trials** as **WELL**

Now - **Sometimes** - we **have** a **hard** time **ACCEPTING**
the Difference between **these two Great Truths**

God has **Already Guaranteed** your **Ultimate RESCUE**
AND - He is **ABLE** to **Save you** from your **Current Trials**

What this **means is** - God **MAY** Or **MAY NOT** - Bring you **thru**
your **Current** Trials - **IN THE WAY** you'd **LIKE**

But what you **can KNOW** for **SURE** is - If **you belong** to **God** today
then your **ULTIMATE RESCUE** - is **guaranteed**

& THAT is exactly what these 3 say to the King -
Which is the PINNACLE of US Glorifying God in our lives

Again - Daniel 3:17 - with v.18 (nlt)

17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve IS ABLE to save us. He WILL RESCUE us from your power, Your Majesty.

18 But even if he doesn't (meaning doesn't save them from this trial), we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

Our God is ABLE - & He WILL absolutely RESCUE us
one way or another

But even if he doesn't deliver us from this current *FIERY TRIAL*
we want to make one thing crystal clear

We will NEVER BOW to Serve the god's of THIS WORLD

WE - WILL - NEVER BOW !!

God is ABLE to Save Us from this Current Trial
AND - He Absolutely WILL RESCUE us from this Fallen World

But there's one thing - that is NOT gonna happen
We Will Never Bow - to anything else - but The God Of Heaven

We will NEVER BOW to Serve the god's of SELF
& We will NEVER BOW to Serve the god's of this World

We are STEADFAST - We are IMMOVABLE
& our FIERY TRIALS - WILL NOT Change US !!!

Now - this is **going to be a problem** - if you **say this** to a **Self-Absorbed KING** - Who's **Demanding** your **Worship**

Daniel 3:19-22 (nlt)

19 Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. (that can't be good) He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual.

20 Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.

21 So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments.

22 And because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames killed the soldiers as they threw the three men in.

THIS - was an **INTENSE Scene**

In a "**Smelting Furnace**" - where **Metal** is **MELTED** - there is a **FEED Platform** - that is **very dangerous**

Because when the **SMELTER door** is **opened** - it **creates** such a **Vacuum** - it will **literally SUCK a man off** that **platform**

Which is exactly what **happened** here
& the soldiers are **vaporized** in the **flames**

& we read in Daniel 3:16 (nlt)

23 So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, securely tied, fell into the roaring flames.

SOMETIMES - it **LOOKS** like **God** is **NOT** going to **SAVE US**
from our **FIERY TRIAL**

SOMETIMES things **start** to look **pretty HOPELESS**
when we start **FOCUSING** on our **current situation**
(like being thrown into a White-Hot Furnace)

But then - **SOMETIMES** something happens
that is even **MORE Shocking**

SOMETIMES something **happens**
that you **NEVER EXPECTED** to **Happen**

If **you'll go** into that **FIERY TRIAL** - with **the FAITH** we see **here**

If **you'll go** in **KNOWING** that **EITHER God** is **Going** to
SAVE you from **The Trial** - Or **RESCUE** you **Completely**

You'll find - **JESUS** is **WAITING** - **IN the Fire** - to **MEET YOU** !!

SOMETIMES your **Lord** wants to **WALK with you** **THRU the FIRE**

Because Jesus knows - **IN the MIDST of the FIRE**
you **will come** to **KNOW Him** *in a way* - & *to a level*
that you **NEVER Could** - **OUTSIDE of The FIRE**

What WE want - is to **never** even **feel** a **SPARK** from the **FIRE**
But What Jesus Wants - is to **MEET US** - **IN the FIRE**

What WE want - is **Comfort & Ease** in **THIS LIFE**
But What Jesus Wants - is to **PREPARE us for Eternity**

What We want - is for **Jesus** to **make THIS LIFE Easier & Better**
But What Jesus Wants - is to **USE US** - **for HIS GLORY**

SOMETIMES - God's **ETERNAL GOOD** -
is us **meeting him** - **RIGHT** in the **MIDST** of **The FIRE**

& **THAT** was **God's Plan** for these **3 Hebrew's**

Daniel 3:24-25 (nlt)

24 But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?" "Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did," they replied.

25 "Look!" Nebuchadnezzar shouted. "I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!"

The **most Literal** translation for this **FOURTH Person** in the **Fire** is
"like a son of the gods"

This is an **ARAMAIC term** that means **"One that comes from DEITY"**
Nebuchadnezzar wouldn't use the term **Son of God** - like us

He **just recognizes** this **4th person** - as **DEITY**
& **in fact** - he **refers** to him as **an ANGEL** a **few vs's** later

HOWEVER - **MOST Scholars believe** this is a
"Pre-Incarnate" Manifestation of **Jesus Christ**

Meaning - **this** is the **LORD JESUS**
Showing up for a **FIRE-SIDE CHAT** with these **faithful servants**

Pls Lstn Closely - **Jesus** wants to **WALK** - **Thru The MIDST**
of **YOUR FIERY TRIAL** - **With You** !!

HE wants to **MEET You** There - He **wants you** to **KNOW Him** there

Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego Were in a NO LOSE situation

Either - they were gonna be walking around with Jesus In The FIRE
Or they were gonna be walking around with Jesus - IN HEAVEN

This is NO LOSE situation

MEET Jesus in the Midst of the Fire

& Know Him like you could never know Him any other way

- OR - Meet Him in Heaven & COLLECT your Reward there -
& spend eternity with Him in GLORY

if you belong to Christ today - You are in a WIN-WIN situation

God MAY SAVE us from our FIERY TRIAL -

But He has ALREADY RESCUED us from this Fallen World!!

In Jn Ch 6 - Jesus Sent His disciples into the Storm -

So He could reach them in a way that He could not otherwise

& Here - The Lord used a FIERY TRIAL

to MEET these 3 servants the SAME Way

What if God wants to do the SAME THING in YOU

For HIS Purposes - & For HIS Glory

IF SO - KNOW that God has promised

to NEVER LEAVE you - & to NEVER FORSAKE you

If He allows you to into the FIRE of Tribulation

He has promised to BE THERE with You

To WALK you thru it - & to bring you out VICTORIOUS

& Remember - People SEE GOD With Us when we are in the FIRE

King Neb mocked God when he threw these 3 into the fire
But NOW - his tune CHANGES

Daniel 3:26 (nlt)

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire.

What's so funny - is that these 3 didn't JUMP out of the fire
as soon as they realized they were no longer BOUND - -
They had to be CALLED OUT of the Fire

Because They MET JESUS IN THERE
& they were in NO HURRY to COME OUT !

Suddenly there was something MORE Valuable
than simply AVOIDING the FIERY TRIAL

They had MET JESUS CHRIST In the Midst of that Fire

& His Overwhelming Presence - Caused them to
FORGET that they were even IN the FIRE

But the King called them - so they Came On OUT

Daniel 3:27 (nlt)

27 Then the high officers, officials, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them.

Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn't even smell of smoke!

If God does this for YOU - Remember - It's for HIS GLORY

Which is exactly what happens in Daniel 3:28 (nlt)

28 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.

They were WILLING to DIE

Rather than BOW to ANY other GOD

Rather than SERVE or WORSHIP ANY god of this WORLD

& it had a SIGNIFICANT IMPACT on the King

Daniel 3:29-30 (nlt)

29 Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. There is no other god who can rescue like this!" (God getting the Glory)

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.

The **last thing** God **did** for these **3 faithful servants** - is to **ENLARGE** **their INFLUENCE** for **HIM**

We **don't hear** about **them again** - but **I promise** you - the people **THRU-OUT Babylon** **heard** about them

As they operated in their **Faith** - in even **HIGHER POSITIONS**

WHAT if we **Truly Believed** - **IN the TRIAL** we are **Facing** today

That God would **DO** what **was BEST**
BOTH for **US** - **AND** for **HIS GLORY** ??

What if we were to **STOP FIGHTING** - & **STOP DEFENDING**
& **STOP DEMANDING** Our **OWN WAY**

What if we were to **JUST SAY** - with *Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego*

*we do not need to defend ourselves . . . Our God whom we serve
is ABLE to save us. & He WILL rescue us*

And **EITHER WAY** - **One thing** we will **NEVER DO**

WE WILL NEVER BOW - to the **gods of SELF** or **of this WORLD**

We will **MEET Jesus Christ**
in the Midst of **Every FIERY TRIAL** - & **Every Difficulty**

With **Complete FAITH** - that **He is ABLE** to **SAVE US**
& **that He Absolutely WILL - RESCUE US**

May God be **GLORIFIED** - in the **MIDST** of our **FIERY TRIALS**
& **may** we **STAND FIRM** in our **Faith & Trust** of **Him**

Let's Pray - As I Read **Isaiah 43:1-3** → →

Isaiah 43:1–3 (NLT)

1 . . . “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

2 When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.

3 For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I gave Egypt as a ransom for your freedom; I gave Ethiopia and Seba in your place.