

## In the Fire Part 4

### Daniel 3

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high (90ft) and six cubits wide (9ft), and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. **2** He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. **3** So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

**4** Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: **5** As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. **6** Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.”

**7** Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

- At this time Babylon was a world power...
- This was not some small unseen 3rd world country, but rather a powerful, influential nation...
- It's important to note that the spirit that gripped Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar was a controlling spirit...
- Any spirit other than the Spirit of God seems to have an obsession with control, fear and intimidation...

- When a Nation or Government moves away from the Fear of the Lord and respect for his word, control and power becomes the objective...

### **James 3:16**

**16** For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

- Chapter 3 has a interesting connection to Chapter 2
- It's unknown how much time passed between Chapter 2 & 3. Some Theologians believe this happened a short time after, others believe it happened many years later.

Nevertheless:

- In Chapter 2 Nebuchadnezzar has a dream of a statue that begins powerfully and ends with frailty...
- In Chapter 3 He builds the statue, but with a twist to the dream God gave him...
- Nebuchadnezzar builds this statue to represent himself and his kingdom with pure gold unlike the dream where the head was of pure **gold**, the chest and arms of **silver**, the belly and thighs of **bronze**, the legs of **iron** and feet partly of **iron and baked clay**.
- *It seems that Nebuchadnezzar deliberately made an entire statue of gold, to say that the day of his reign and authority would never end – in contradiction to God's declared plan. David Guzik*

### **Vs. 8-12**

**8** At this time some astrologers (Chaldeans) came forward and denounced the Jews. **9** They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever! **10** Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, **11** and

that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace.

**12** But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—**who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty.** They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.”

- The word against the three Hebrew boys was they pay no attention to the King, neither serve his gods or worship the image...
- I don't believe the testimony of the Chaldeans was accurate...
- I believe the 3 Hebrew men were use to paying good attention...
- But in regard to dishonoring God and worshipping a false god this is where they seemed to walk in the **“I don't care”** anointing...

I believe we are living in a day where the **“I don't care”** anointing is needed at times...

If anyone including the king mandates something contrary to God's word, the **“I don't care”** anointing should kick in...

Why would they pay no attention?

- They were use to being different...

### **1 Peter 2:9** KJV

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego paid no attention, because they have never played along with a pagan world...
- They didn't worship the image, because they only worshipped the true and living God...
- This was just another day in the life of a devote follower of Yahweh...

## **Vs. 13-18**

**13** Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, **14** and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?”

**15** Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”

**16** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. **17** 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. **18** 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.”

## **Vs. 15**

But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”

- Nebuchadnezzar presumes he is greater than God...
- At this point the only god he really believes in is himself,
- This kind of talk comes usually about the time God reminds them they are not God...

**17** 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.

**18** 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.”

- This kind of resolve gets God’s attention...
- Note something: Even while standing for God, they speak to the king with respect, “Your Majesty”
- **This kind of resolve took Faith:** “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.”
- **This kind of resolve got heaven’s attention:** “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.”

**Story:** In the Warehouse taking to God

- The choice Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego made that day was remarkable: Even if it costs me my life I’m gonna serve the Lord...

They could have said:

- Well... When in Rome, do as the Romans do...
- Well... If we don’t we will lose our jobs...
- Well... After all, were not renouncing our God...
- Well... Everybody else is doing it...
- Well... It is only once, just for the king. It’s stupid to throw our lives away for this...
- Well... God will understand...

David Guzik *“Remember that early Christians were not thrown to the lions because they worshipped Jesus, but because they would not worship the emperor.”*

## **Vs. 19-25**

**19** Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual **20** and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.

**21** So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. **22** The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, **23** and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

## **Vs. 19**

Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious...

- No matter how much faith they had, the simple fact is, the most powerful man in the world was furious and there isn't a more intimidating situation to be in...
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had made the king mad and they knew there was nothing in their own power to save them...
- The furnace was ordered seven times hotter...
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were bound in all of their clothing and thrown into the furnace...
- The fire was so hot the king's strongest soldiers died just throwing them in...

## **Vs. 24,25**

**24** 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?"

They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

**25** He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

### **That day the king saw something amazing...**

1. 3 men who were unwilling to yield to compromise and their devotion to God...
2. God is present with those who stand unwavering in the face of persecution...
3. When the price of serving God is suffering, He is near...

**Story:** Missionary placed in whole

### **Vs. 25** NKJV

“Look!” he answered, “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 the Son of God.”

- Is there any greater company than the Lord?
- Is there any greater encouragement than for him to meet you there?
- Is there any victory than for the Lord to appear in the face of your enemies and those who oppress you?

This must be what David was speaking of when he said in

### **Psalm 23**

**4**

Even though I walk  
    through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
    for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
    they comfort me.

## 5

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

- If facing the fire means I get to walk with Jesus and be next to him, then so be it...

### **Vs. 26-30**

**26** Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, **27** and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

**28** Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. **29** Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”

**30** Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.