

When Culture and Convictions Collide  
Stand Firm  
August 20, 2023

**Daniel 3:1-7** King Nebuchadnezzar made an **image** of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. **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. 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. **Then the herald loudly proclaimed**, “Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are **commanded** to do: As soon as you **hear the sound** of the horn, lute, 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. **Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.**” 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.

**Daniel 3:12** 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.

**Daniel 3:13-15** **Furious with rage**, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, 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? **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?”

Today I want to help you stand...

- ✓ Standing firm takes \_\_\_\_\_.

**Daniel 3:16** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not worried about **what will happen to us.**”

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**Daniel 3:17-18 (TLB)** “If we are thrown into the flaming furnace, **our God is able** to deliver us; and he will deliver us out of your hand, Your Majesty. **But if he doesn’t**, please understand, sir, that even then we will never under any circumstance serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have erected.”

**Daniel 3:21-25** So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, **were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace.** 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, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. 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.” 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.**”

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**Daniel 3:26-27** 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, 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**.

- ✓ Standing firm \_\_\_\_\_ others.

**Daniel 3:28-30** 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. 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.” Then **the king promoted** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Let’s Stand:

1. Stand in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ephesians 6:11-14** Put on the full armor of God so that you can **take your stand** against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, **you may be able to stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then...

2. Stand in the work of the Lord.

**1 Corinthians 15:58** Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. **Let nothing move you**. Always give yourselves fully to **the work of the Lord**, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

3. Stand for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 10:32-33** So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

**Acts 7:55-56** But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and **Jesus standing at the right hand of God**. “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the **Son of Man standing** at the right hand of God.”

**Walk Away:** When I \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ with me.

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