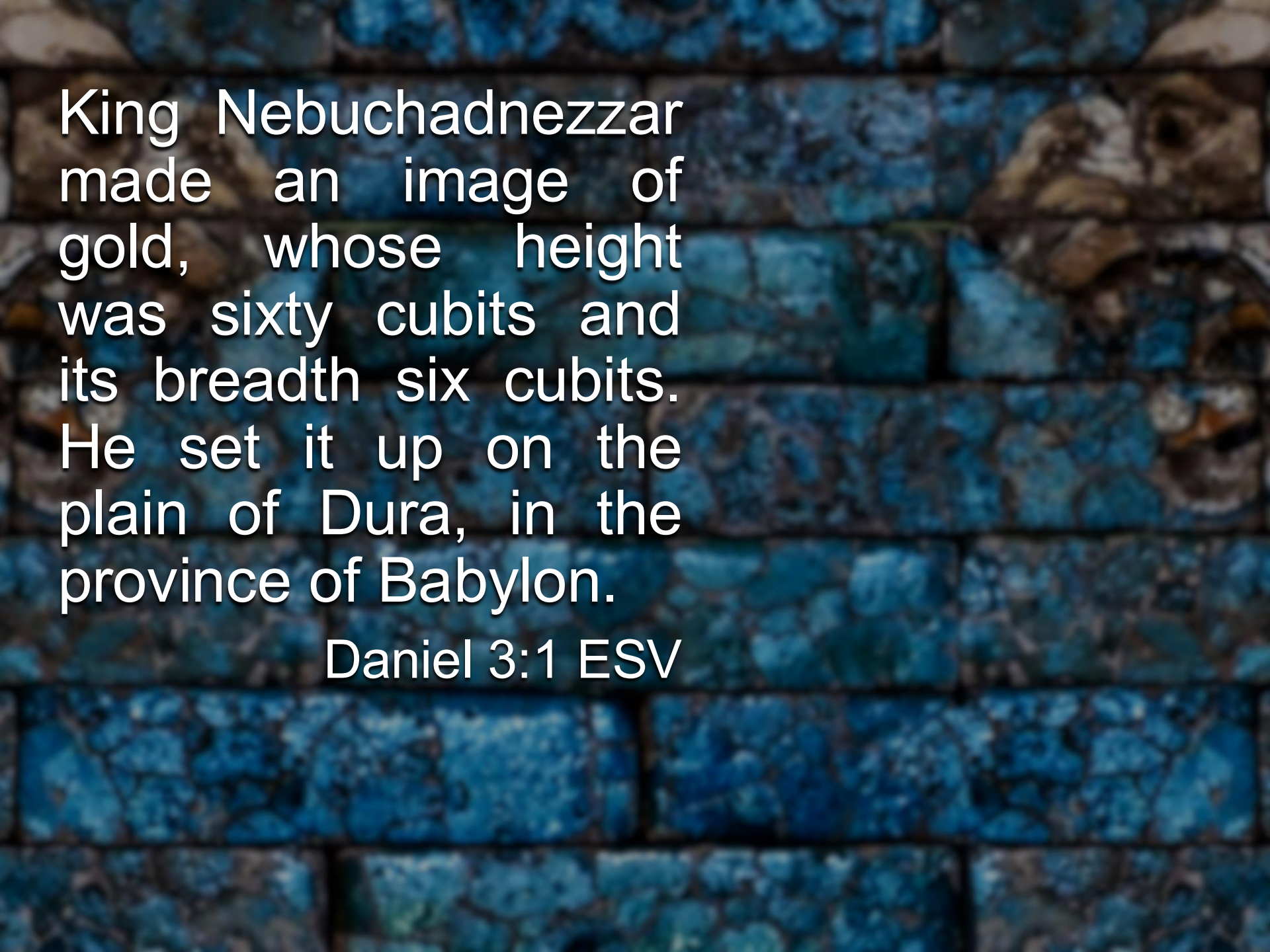


The image shows a close-up of a stone wall. The stones are rectangular and arranged in a regular pattern. They have a mottled appearance with shades of blue, teal, and tan. The text 'WHEN BEASTS REIGN' is centered on the wall in a bold, yellow, 3D font. The letters have a slight shadow, giving them a three-dimensional look as if they are floating or attached to the wall. The overall texture is rough and natural, typical of a stone wall.

**WHEN
BEASTS
REIGN**

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a stone wall. The stones are primarily a deep blue color, with some lighter, brownish-grey stones interspersed, particularly towards the top right. The texture of the stones is rough and irregular, with visible mortar lines. The lighting is somewhat dim, creating a moody atmosphere.

**Is your trust in the Lord built on *his character*
or *your comfort*?**

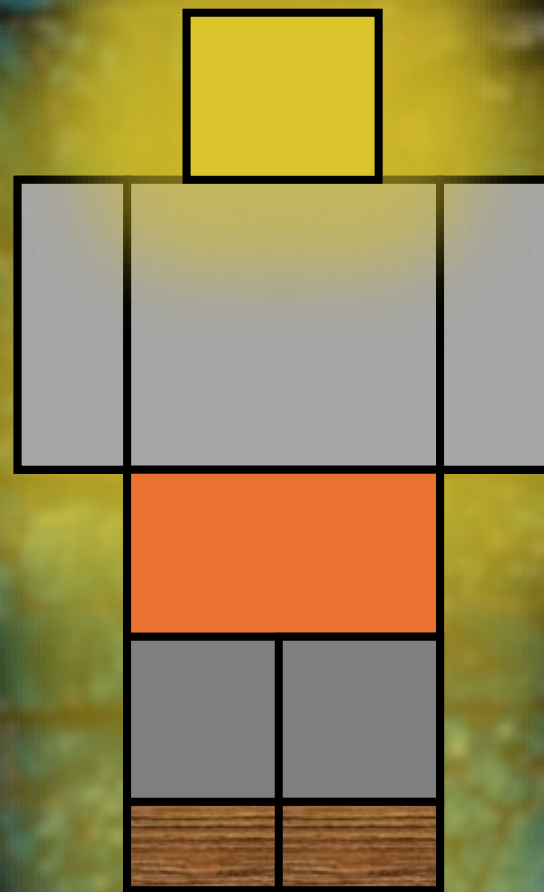


King Nebuchadnezzar
made an image of
gold, whose height
was sixty cubits and
its breadth six cubits.
He set it up on the
plain of Dura, in the
province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:1 ESV

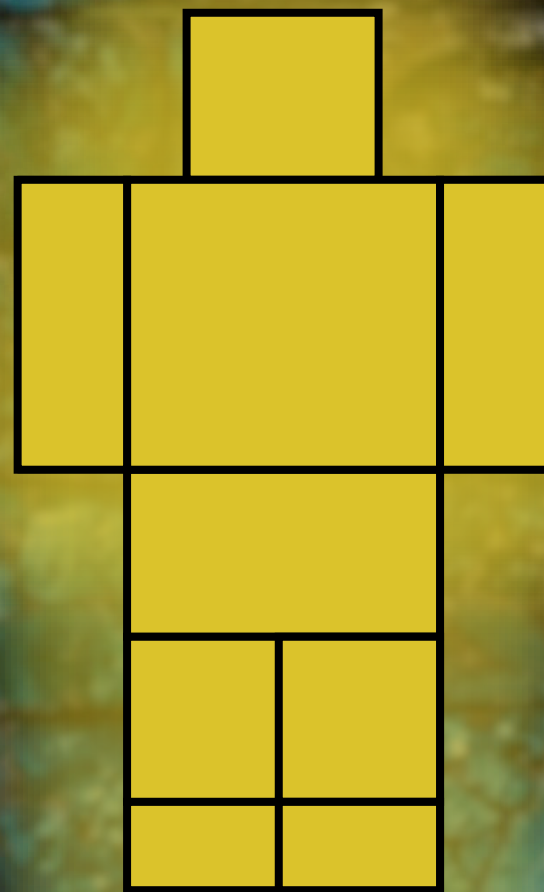
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Daniel 3:1 ESV



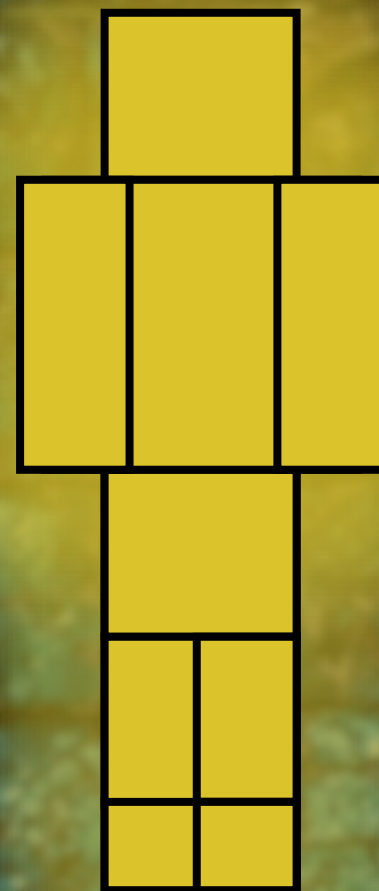
King Nebuchadnezzar
made an image of
gold, whose height
was sixty cubits and
its breadth six cubits.
He set it up on the
plain of Dura, in the
province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:1 ESV



King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was **90 feet** and its breadth **9 feet**. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:1 ESV



Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Daniel 3:2-3 ESV

And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to **fall down** and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. And whoever does not **fall down** and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.”

Daniel 3:4-6 ESV

Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages **fell down** and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

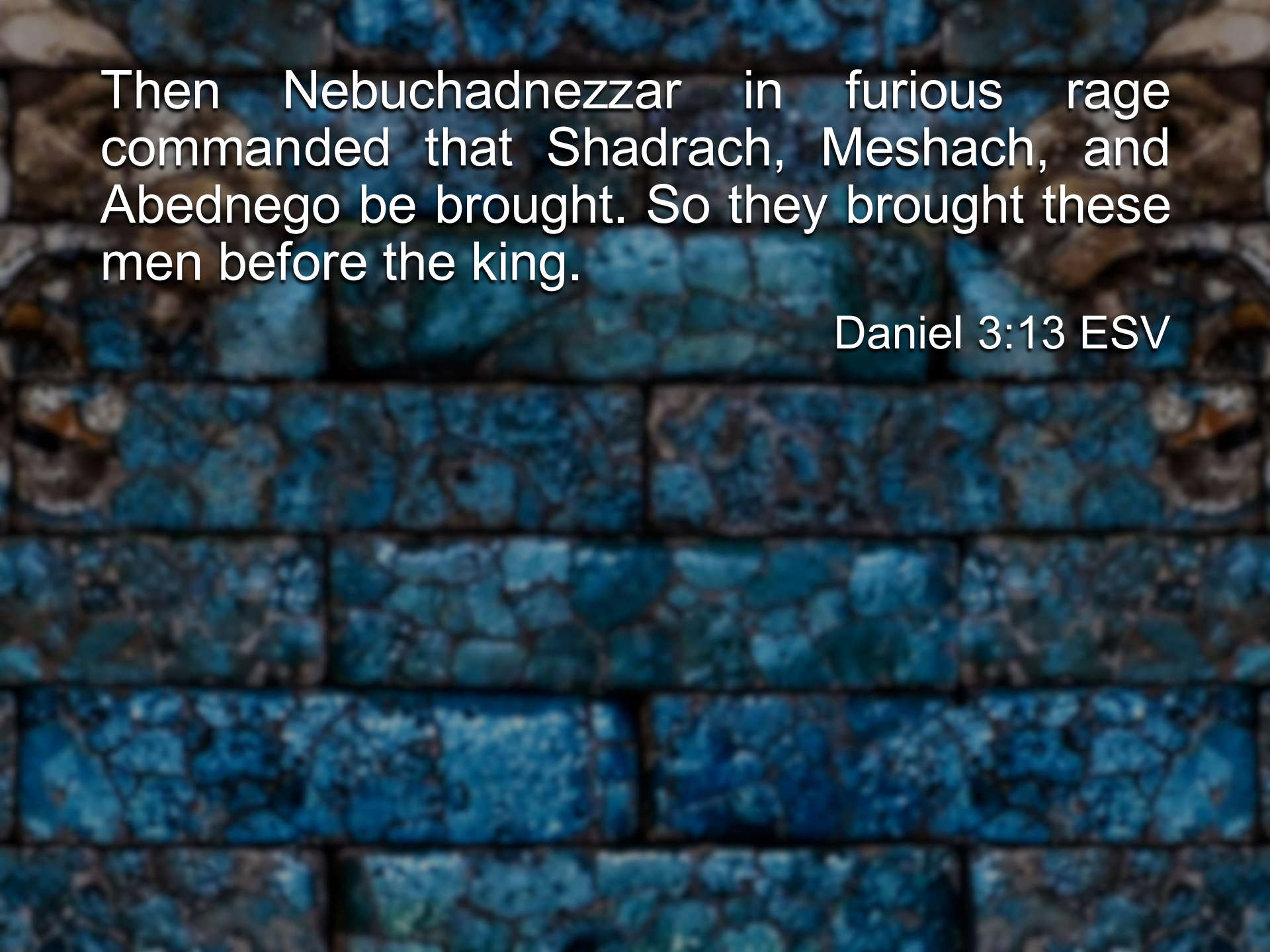
Daniel 3:7 ESV

Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall **fall down** and worship the golden image. And whoever does not **fall down** and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace.

Daniel 3:8-11 ESV

There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

Daniel 3:12 ESV

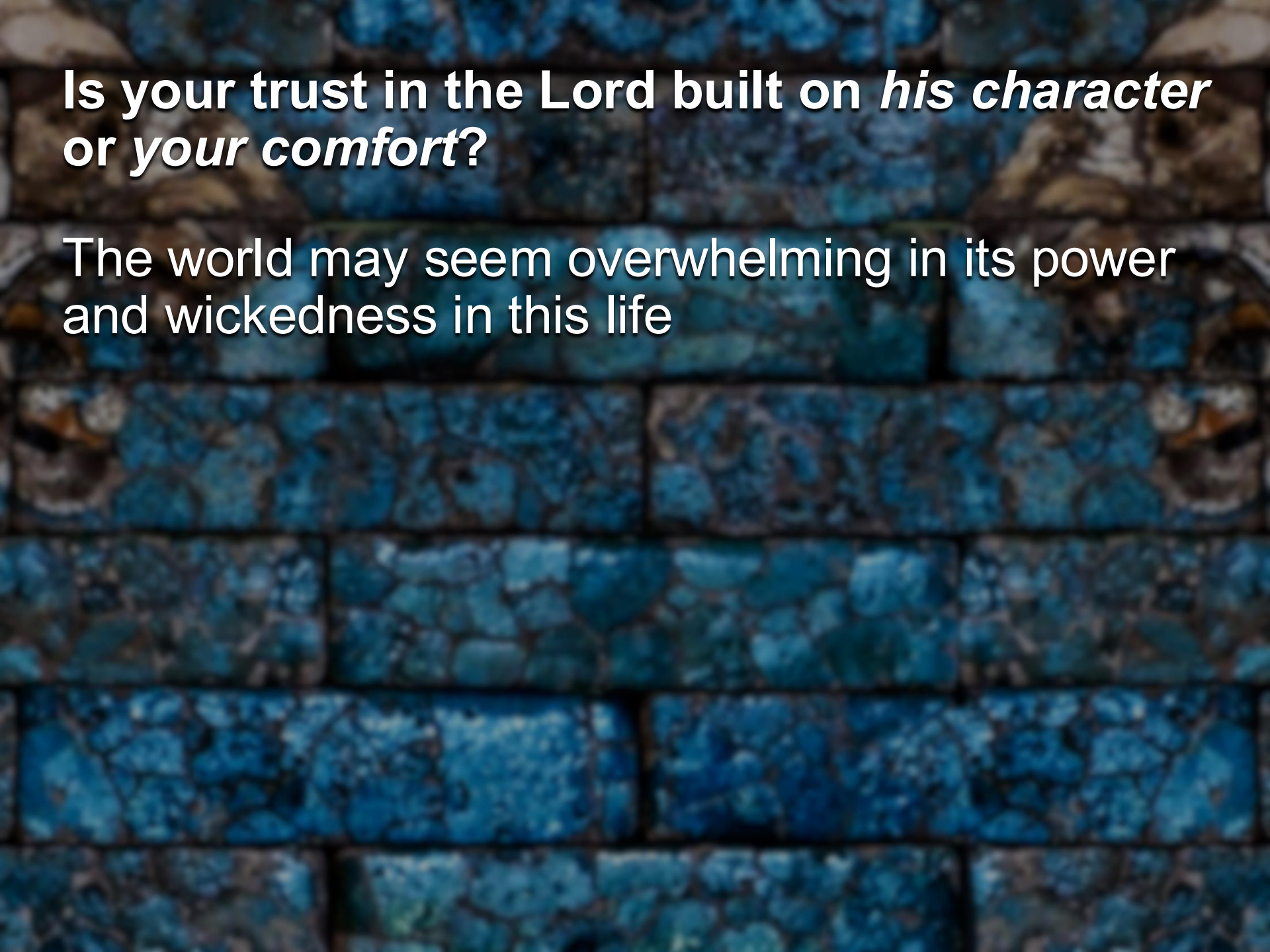
The background of the image is a close-up of a mosaic wall. The mosaic is composed of small, irregular tiles in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue, with some white tiles interspersed. The tiles are set in a dark, possibly black, grout. The overall effect is a textured, patterned surface that fills the entire frame.

Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage
commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego be brought. So they brought these
men before the king.

Daniel 3:13 ESV

Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to **fall down** and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. **And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?**”

Daniel 3:14-15 ESV



Is your trust in the Lord built on *his character* or *your comfort*?

The world may seem overwhelming in its power and wickedness in this life

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve **is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”**

Daniel 3:16-18 ESV

Is your trust in the Lord built on *his character* or *your comfort*?

The world may seem overwhelming in its power and wickedness in this life

The response of the faithful is to stand firm because of who God is regardless of what it could cost

**The response of the faithful is to stand firm
because of who God is regardless of what it
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What is a martyr?

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*The word martyr is derived from throughout
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The response of the faithful is to stand firm because of who God is regardless of what it could cost

What is a martyr?

The word martyr is derived from throughout Scripture is tied to faithfully living as witnesses who testify that Jesus is the risen king

The point for us today is not only centered on our willingness to die for the Gospel, but on our willingness to live as witnesses of Jesus Christ each and every day, even if it costs our lives

Is your trust in the Lord built on *his character* or *your comfort*?

The world may seem overwhelming in its power and wickedness in this life

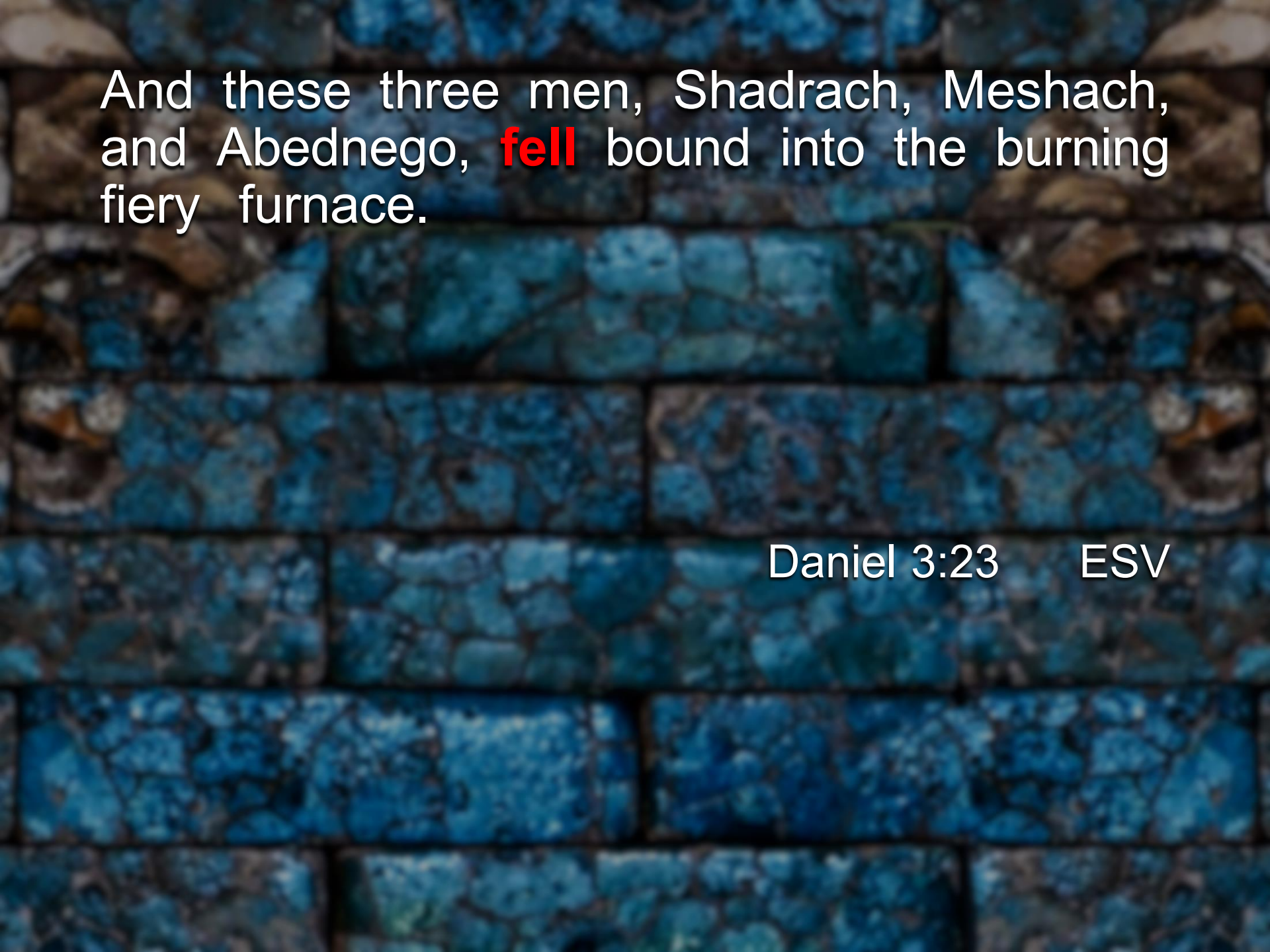
The response of the faithful is to stand firm because of who God is regardless of what it could cost

Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face **was changed** against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

Daniel 3:19-20 ESV

Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Daniel 3:21-22 ESV

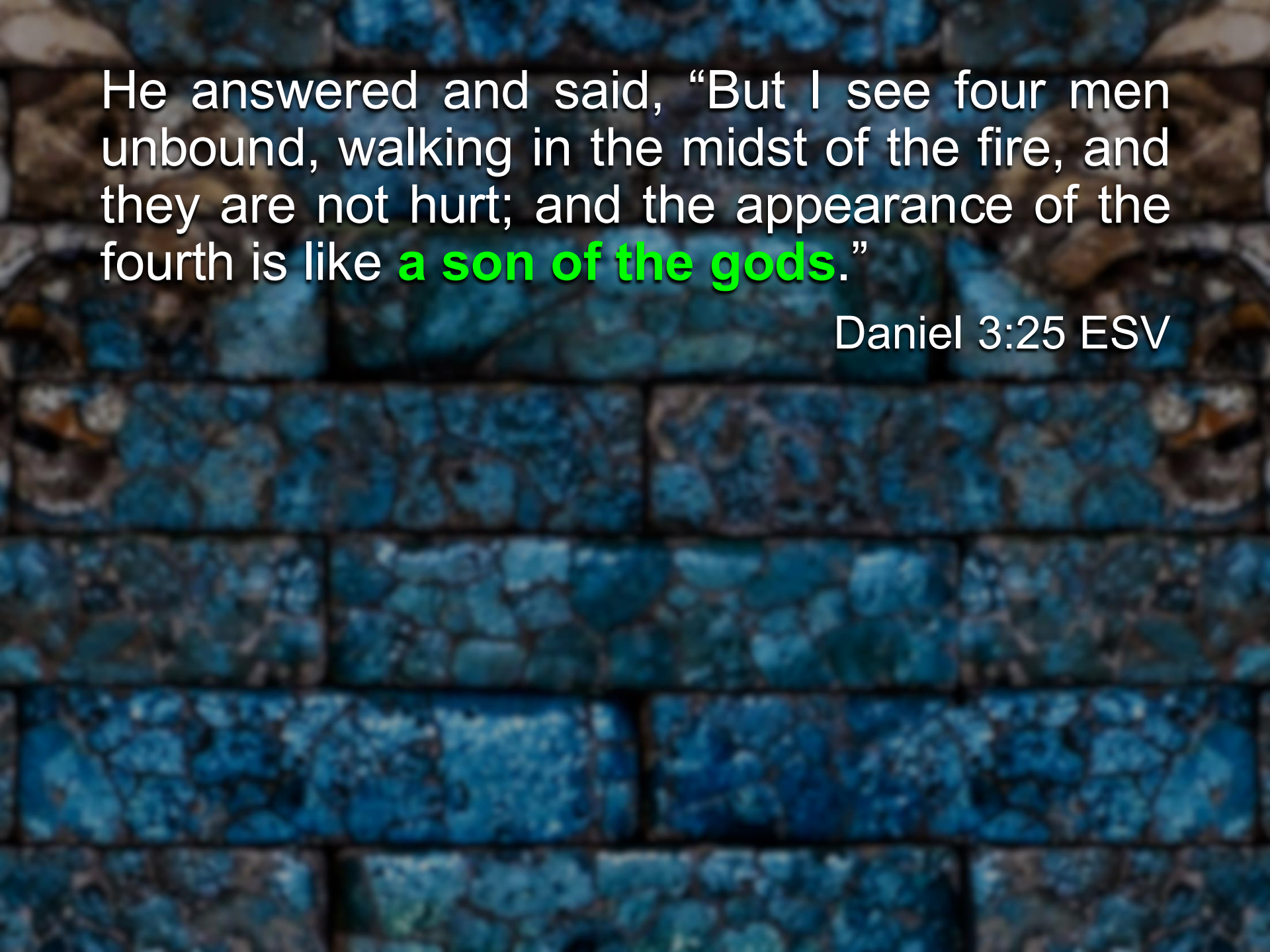


And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego, **fell** bound into the burning
fiery furnace.

Daniel 3:23 ESV

And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, **fell** bound into the burning fiery furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.”

Daniel 3:23-24 ESV



He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like **a son of the gods.**”

Daniel 3:25 ESV

He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like **a son of the gods.**”

Daniel 3:25 ESV

This phrase comes from Nebuchadnezzar’s lips, so we do not expect him to be representing any deep insight or sophisticated theology. The phrase “son of the gods” represents a common Semitic expression for identifying a supernatural being.

IVP Bible Background Commentary: OT

Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of **the Most High God**, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.

Daniel 3:26 ESV

Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of **the Most High God**, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach,

Meshach, and

f the Most High God,

here!" Then Shadrach

And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them.

Daniel 3:27 ESV

Nebuchadnezzar answered and said,
“Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego, who has sent his angel and
delivered his servants, who trusted in him,
and set aside the king’s command, and
yielded up their bodies rather than serve and
worship any god except their own God.

Daniel 3:28 ESV

Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, **for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.**” Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

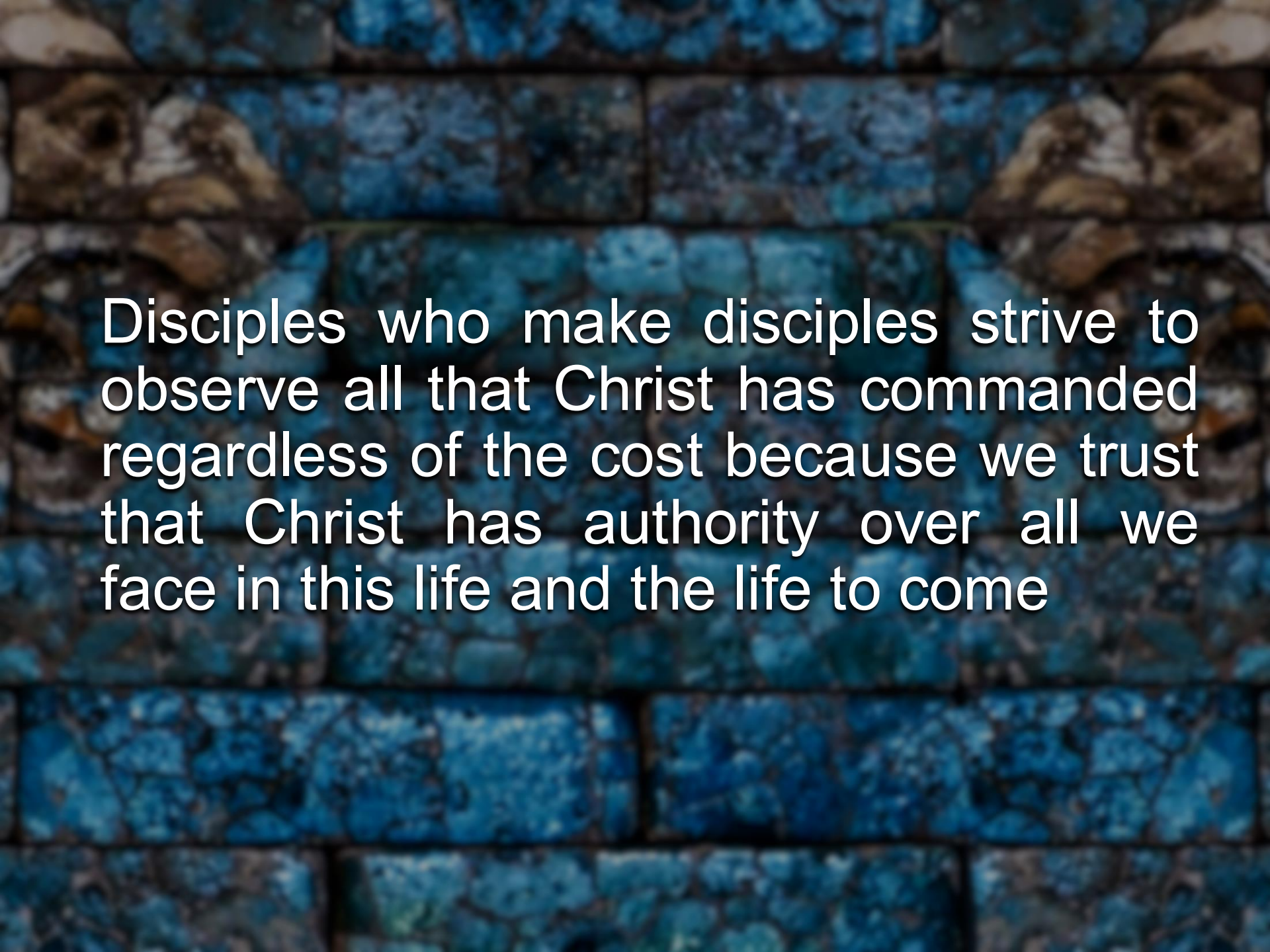
Daniel 3:29-30 ESV

Is your trust in the Lord built on *his character* or *your comfort*?

The world may seem overwhelming in its power and wickedness in this life

The response of the faithful is to stand firm because of who God is regardless of what it could cost

The deliverance of God throughout Scripture disarms the world consistently and completely



Disciples who make disciples strive to observe all that Christ has commanded regardless of the cost because we trust that Christ has authority over all we face in this life and the life to come

