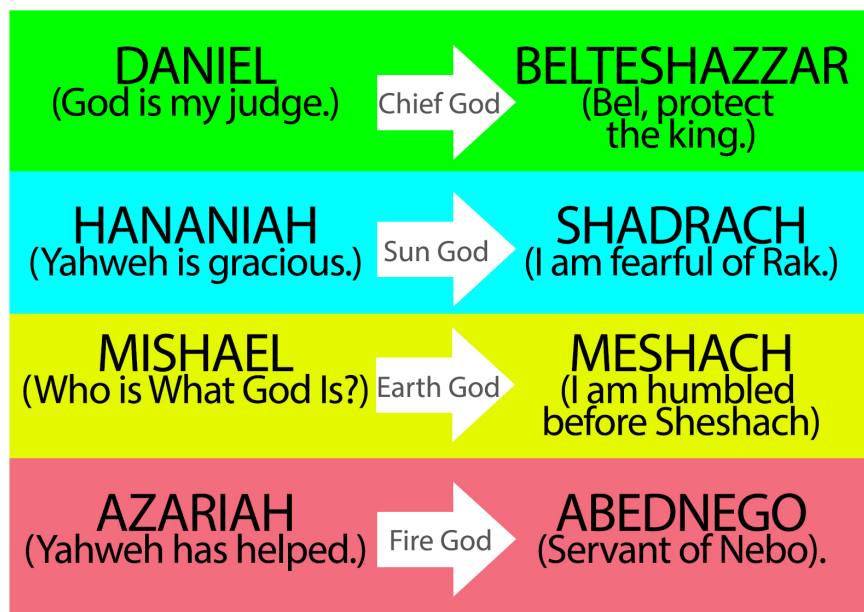


Purple Cow: Dare to Be Different
Part 6 – When Compromise Seem Like The Only Option

1. Two weeks ago, we spoke about having core convictions and knowing the difference between flexibility and compromise.
2. But what happens when compromise seems like the only or most reasonable option?
 - Lie or loose the job
 - Bend values or don't get married.
 - Compromise or won't move ahead.
3. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah was brought to Babylon as captives and refused to eat from the king's table.



4. After making a stance, they were promoted as governing officials (Dan 2:49).
 - Daniel ruled over all of Babylon in the king's palace.
 - Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego were appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits and its width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. **2** Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent word to assemble the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

1. It was common for kings to build statutes for individuals to worship; especially seeing that most nations were polytheists.

2. Image was most likely gold plated and 90 feet high and 9 feet wide.
 - Could have been in the image of Nebuchadnezzar, a god they worshipped, or the creation of a new idol/deity.
3. Word sent to governing officials from all over the Babylon empire.
4. According to ancient Babylonian prism found in Istanbul museum, Shadrack, Mechack, and Abednego is believed to have been included on list of more than 50 governing officials.



3:4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed: "To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and men of every language, 5 that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up. 6 But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire."

1. Amongst them were Shadrack, Mechack, and Abednego who were now governing officials!
2. They had to BOW OR BURN!
 - I either bow or loose something I value.
 - Bow or loose my life.
 - Bow or miss an opportunity.
3. Everyone started bowing
4. Shadrack, Mechack, and Abednego pulled a Colin Kapernick

- Colin Kapernick went down while everyone else stood up.
 - Shadrack, Mechack, and Abednego stood up while everyone went down.
5. Shadrack, Mechack, and Abednego risked their careers and lives.

3:8 For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews.

Brought charges: Chew them out or tear into pieces.

3:12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, namely Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. These men, O king, have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."

- Nebuchadnezzar was furious and demanded that they bow
- He said something that is key...

3:15 ...But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?"

Seed of Doubt: if I don't bow, who will deliver me?

- If I don't lie, how am I going to get another job?
- If I don't bend my priorities, how will I move ahead in life?
- If I don't cut back on my giving, how will I pay my bills?
- What we are saying is that our God is not strong enough to get us out of a terrible situation.

3:16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. [He already knew of the God that they served. This was no surprise.] 17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.18 But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

- God is able to deliver us.
- Even if God doesn't deliver, we will not compromise.
- They were basically saying, "We would rather die than compromise."

3:19-27

1. Nebuchadnezzar was filled with anger and ordered that the fire be turned up 7 times hotter than usual.
2. Order was so emotionally rash, that the soldier who threw SMA in the fire didn't have time to prepare and, therefore, ended up dying from the flames.
3. While the soldiers burned to death,

4. Nebuchadnezzar was astounded when he saw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego and what appeared to be an angel walking around in the fire.
5. The governing officials gathered around and were astounded.
6. King Nebuchadnezzar ordered them to come out and there were no signs of being in a fire, including smell.

3:28 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way."

3:30 Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon.

1. The same king that tried to kill and oppress them became the same king that became dedicated to their prosperity.
 - He rewarded and promoted them.
2. They went from POSITION to PROSPERITY.
 - There's a difference between having a position and experience true prosperity.
 - We compromise to protect a position, but God wants to free us to enjoy true prosperity.
3. The turning point wasn't in their stance, but the miracle that God performed.
 - People are taking a stand for many causes, but the question is God with them? Is His presence acknowledged?
 - God wants to use your stance as catalyst for something great and supernatural
 - It will cause people to say, "How did that happen?"

Purple cows refuse to compromise, even when it seems like the only option.

- They have faith that God is in control.
- Their faith positions them for the extraordinary, miraculous, unexplainable.

Purple Cow Series #DareToBeDifference / @jumainejones @thebridgedc