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Real People - Real Problems

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Daniel: Chapters 1 thru 3

1. Idolatry - the reason for captivity.

1. Am I taking more joy in this thing or person than God?
2. Am I spending more time, more money, more of my thought life on those things or people than God?
3. Is this more of a priority than God in my heart?
4. Am I worrying more about it or them than the things of God?
5. Am I willing to give this up forever?

New Testament's Definition of idolatry: Colossians 3:5-6 "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry".

Are we protecting ourselves from idolatry?

2. Identify the hope to indoctrinate - Vs. 7

Would people identify us as Christians?

3. Special Traits: Conviction + Decisions + God = Success.

Daniel 1:8-21

God was the key: vs. 9, vs. 17

Are we men and women of Conviction?

4. *The furnace - the cost of conviction. 3:1-19- 27*

They were prepared to die for their faith. They were confident of their God. They knew they might not be delivered from the furnace but would be delivered in the furnace.

Are we confident that God will come to our rescue, and if not are we prepared to suffer for our faith?

5. *The Outcome - God is glorified. Daniel 3: 28-4:3*

Are we confident our convictions will glorify God?

Brief Timeline of the Old Testament

4000 BC Adam and Eve

2500 BC Noah

2000 BC Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

1800 BC Joseph into Egypt

1400 BC Moses (Exodus Out of Egypt)

1100 BC to 937 BC Ruth, Samuel, Saul (1st King), David, Solomon.

931 BC Divided Kingdom (about 200 years). Israel in the north Judah in the south.

730 BC Assyrians take Israel (northern kingdom) captive.

607 BC Babylon overtakes Assyria and takes Israel (northern kingdom) into captivity.

600 BC Daniel and friends are taken from Judah (southern kingdom) to Babylon.

586 BC Jerusalem is completely destroyed.

538 BC Babylon eventually falls to Persia.

536 BC Jews return to Jerusalem from captivity and begin rebuilding the temple.

520 BC Temple is finished

478 BC Esther becomes Queen in Persia

450 BC Ezra and Nehemiah Rebuild Jerusalem

400 BC to Christ - The region is ruled by Persia, then Greece, then Rome (Israel is a puppet nation).

Question for Reflection

*What's the closest you have been to being in a furnace?
How did God show up?*