

## TESTIMONY BY FIRE

Right now, we as believers must hold fast to our convictions without hesitation, trusting God with the outcome

Whether he preserves or not shouldn't change how we respond to anything that might test your faith in Christ

Daniel 3:12-30 NKJV There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. <sup>14</sup> Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, “*Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?* <sup>15</sup> Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, *and* psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, *good!* But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who *is* the god who will deliver you from my hands?”

<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If that *is the case*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”

### Saved in Fiery Trial

<sup>19</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. <sup>20</sup> And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who *were* in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, *and cast them* into the burning fiery furnace. <sup>21</sup> Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their *other* garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery

furnace. <sup>22</sup> Therefore, because the king's command was <sup>[a]</sup>urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. <sup>23</sup> And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

<sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste *and* spoke, saying to his <sup>[b]</sup>counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?"

They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

<sup>25</sup> "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<sup>[c]</sup> Son of God."

#### Nebuchadnezzar Praises God

<sup>26</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the <sup>[d]</sup>mouth of the burning fiery furnace *and* spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come *here*." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. <sup>27</sup> And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

<sup>28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel<sup>[e]</sup> and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! <sup>29</sup> Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this."

<sup>30</sup> Then the king <sup>[f]</sup>promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar made a gold idol, a statue, standing 90 ft tall designed both to impress and intimidate

The king's decision here represents a major culture shift that challenges everyone to conform to the Babylonian culture

Not much different in our culture today. Same sex marriage, many genders, abortion on demand, homosexuality, hatred of laws, and those who uphold them and blatant disrespect for anyone who has authority over us and if we don't bow to culture we're the problem

But the answer is the same today as it was for those 3 Hebrew men

**Romans 12:1,2 NKJV** I beseech<sup>[a]</sup> you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your* <sup>[b]</sup>reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Remember this today church, our testimony is forged in the fiery furnace of life not the comfort of a trial-free life

One thing you can count on, the fourth man will be present in the fire to make sure everything the enemy chose to bind you with has no restriction on your life

**v. 25** – read from Bible

Again today, if it feels like you're in a fiery furnace trial, the Lord told me to you He's in it with you and He's forging your testimony!

Your test produces your testimony

## **1. THIS IS WHERE OUR FAITH IS CHALLENGED**

### **V. 12-18**

From now until the rapture of the church you and I will continually defy the culture that does its best to convince us to conform to culture

These 3 men were accused of violating the king's royal decree. But when man-made laws try to supersede the law and commands of God, that's when we must stand on His Word

Their faith was challenged but they had unwavering trust and declared that God could save them – but even if He didn't – they still wouldn't serve his idol!

Basically, they said our God is worth dying for!

Our faith cannot even be dependent upon the outcome but instead the person of Christ – the 4<sup>th</sup> Man in your fire!

Testimonies are forged by resilience not conformity!

## 2. THE FIERY TRIAL

### V. 19-23

Nebuchadnezzar was so outraged he commanded the furnace be heated 7 times hotter

Sometimes in the midst of our fiery trial, the enemy turns up the persecution, to the death degree, but don't bow, God is building a testimony right in the midst of the fiery trial

They bound the men in their clothes which should've been combustible quickly, they fell down in the midst of the fiery furnace (His presence in our pain)

I want to interject something here, they actually fell into the divine presence of God which would illuminate the miracle that would soon be seen by everyone!

While bound and cast in the fire, they now are walking freely in the fire with the 4<sup>th</sup> person walking with them in their furnace, the incarnate Christ

The only thing the fire burned up were the ropes that were meant to bind them

**Isaiah 54:17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper,  
And every tongue *which* rises against you in judgment  
You shall condemn.**

**This *is* the heritage of the servants of the Lord,  
And their righteousness *is* from Me,"  
Says the Lord.**

Watch God turn your furnace of death into the birthplace of His glorious revelation of His visual testimony for you!

## 3. TESTIMONY BY FIRE

### V. 24-30

I would say there's victory in your testimony. These men would say their furnace became a place of divine meeting rather than a place of death!

**Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony and they did not love their lives to the death**

God's revelation was so strong that it caused the one who sought to be praised and idolized to bow before the King of Kings and Lord of lords!

Then he commanded that all others would recognize their God would be the only one to be worshiped!

**v. 26-29** Bible

I need you all to get this today – yes, you will receive revelation, wisdom, spiritual insight and a greater value of God's glorious presence, but know this:

Every idol, person, sickness, enemy will not only see what God has done in your life, but they will also have to acknowledge there is no greater god than our Lord God Jehovah and they too will bow to the 4<sup>th</sup> Man in the fire!

Your testimony will be: He is El Shaddai, the God who is more than enough!