



Daniel, Chapter 3

(adapted from *Read with Me Bible* with pictures from
The Beginners Bible)

One day, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, made a statue covered with gold. It was 90 feet tall. He told the people, “Horns and pipes will play. When you hear the music, you must bow down and worship the statue. If you don’t, you will be thrown into a fiery-hot furnace.”

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew they could only worship the one, true God. When the music began to play, they refused to bow down and worship the statue.

Someone said to the king, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refuse to bow down and worship your statue.” So, the king called Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and said, “Is it true that you will not bow down and worship the gold statue I made? If you don’t do it the next time the music plays, you will be thrown into a fiery-hot furnace. Then what god will be able to save you?”

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego looked at each other and said to the king, “O King, we did not make a mistake, nor will we apologize for not bowing down. If we are thrown into the furnace, the God we worship will save us, and he will rescue us. But if not, we want you to know that we will not serve your gods or worship your gold statue.”

The king was very angry. He called his servants and said, “Make the fire as hot as you can, and throw these men into it.” So, his servants made a hot, hot fire. They threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the furnace.

But the king could not believe his eyes. He shouted to his servants, “Weren’t there only three men thrown into the fire?”

“Yes, O king,” they replied. “Then why do I see four men walking around in the fire, untied and unhurt? And the fourth person looks like a son of the gods!”

Nebuchadnezzar went as close as he could to the furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, followers of the Most-High God, come out!”

So the men walked out of the furnace without any burns. They did not even smell like smoke! The king was amazed. At that moment Nebuchadnezzar knew that they worshipped a real God and said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted him and were willing to die rather than worship any god but their own.”

FYI

The phrase “son of the gods” is a Hebrew idiom that simply means “God.”

LIFE PRINCIPLE #1:

God always honors our faith, but God does not promise to always deliver us from _____.

Paul: *Everything happening to me in this jail only serves to make Christ more accurately known, regardless of whether I live or die.*
Philippians 1:20 (MSG)

My grace is always more than enough for you, and my power finds its full expression through your weakness.
2 Corinthians 12:9 (TPT)

LIFE PRINCIPLE #2:

If you don't stand for something, you'll _____.

FYI

The acid test of your faith is whether you are faithful in the tough times.

The defining question for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego:
“And who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?”

Daniel 3:15 (RSV)

Their answer:

“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.”
Daniel 3:17 (RSV)

But that's not all they said:

“BUT IF NOT, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image you have set up.”
Daniel 3:18 (RSV)

In other words, they were saying, “But even if God does not deliver us from the fiery furnace, we will not betray our God. We will not bow down. We will not surrender. We will not dishonor our God, no matter the cost!”