

# Among the Lions: 3 in the Fire...



Daniel 3:13-18



## Daniel 3:

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; then these men were brought before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?"

15 "Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, very well. 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?"



## Daniel 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. 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." 19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and his facial expression was altered toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. He answered by giving orders to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.

# In a Foreign Land



- Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah
  - Working for “dreaming leaders...” see chapter 1!
- People today:
  - Focus on “whatever is right in their own eyes...”
  - Ways of least resistance... “You can’t judge me!”
  - Seeking out new ways to sin!
  - Romans 1!!!



## Romans 1:

28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

## Service Among 'Lions'



- Nebuchadnezzar had a “dream”
  - Big statue, he was the head of gold...
  - Just outside Babylon, a 90'x 18' statue of himself!!!
  - People love to make everything about themselves!
- 6 – “whoever will not fall down and worship”
  - Ultimate peer pressure!!! When I say...

## Political Correctness...

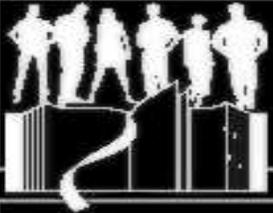


- How many other Jews bowed down???
  - Just like the statue of Antichrist in Revelation
  - Easy to ‘one of the many’ ...
  - But, the kings command drew a line in the sand!
  - And 3 stand up...

# The Power of Power!



- All the Chaldeans run to tell the King...
  - These are the same people Daniel saved in Ch. 2~
  - “Jews you have appointed...” 3:12
  - If you stand against lions, you will need no promo!
- Lions get angry when you aren’t cowering...
  - Taking away their ‘control’ over you
  - One more chance???



## Daniel 3:15

15 "Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, very well. 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?"

## Never Pick This Fight...



- Same as Goliath and other giants...
- Mocking God and His people! Cynical Hearts
- And the answer is:
  - “Our God WHOM WE SERVE is able...”
  - “He will deliver us...”
  - “even if not...we are not going to serve your gods”

## Things Get Hot



- 7 times hotter!
  - And that manages to kill the guards! (vs. 22)
  - They fell in tied up...
  - ...And walked with GOD! “I SEE FOUR MEN”
- The smell of smoke could not cling to them...
- The ropes that bound them fell off!
- The king that mocked changes his tune... (29)

## In a Foreign Land:



- Be who you are – on the firing line & in the fire
- Let God be your partner
- The results are up to Him, faith is up to you!
- Kings and idols fall when God comes in.



## Daniel 3:

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."

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