

Daniel 3

1 King Nebuchadnezzar built a gold statue, ninety feet high and nine feet thick. He set it up on the Dura plain in the province of Babylon. 2 He then ordered all the important leaders in the province, everybody who was anybody, to the dedication ceremony of the statue. 3 They all came for the dedication, all the important people, and took their places before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had erected. 4 A herald then proclaimed in a loud voice: "Attention, everyone! Every race, color, and creed, listen! 5 When you hear the band strike up — all the trumpets and trombones, the tubas and baritones, the drums and cymbals — fall to your knees and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 Anyone who does not kneel and worship shall be thrown immediately into a roaring furnace."

Daniel 3

7 The band started to play, a huge band equipped with all the musical instruments of Babylon, and everyone — every race, color, and creed — fell to their knees and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 8 Just then, some Babylonian fortunetellers stepped up and accused the Jews. 9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "Long live the king! 10 You gave strict orders, O king, that when the big band started playing, everyone had to fall to their knees and worship the gold statue, 11 and whoever did not go to their knees and worship it had to be pitched into a roaring furnace. 12 Well, there are some Jews here — Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego — whom you have placed in high positions in the province of Babylon. These men are ignoring you, O king. They don't respect your gods and they won't worship the gold statue you set up."

Daniel 3

13 Furious, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brought in. When the men were brought in, 14 Nebuchadnezzar asked, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you don't respect my gods and refuse to worship the gold statue that I have set up? 15 I'm giving you a second chance — but from now on, when the big band strikes up you must go to your knees and worship the statue I have made. If you don't worship it, you will be pitched into a roaring furnace, no questions asked. Who is the god who can rescue you from my power?"

Daniel 3

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, "Your threat means nothing to us. 17 If you throw us in the fire, the God we serve can rescue us from your roaring furnace and anything else you might cook up, O king. 18 But even if he doesn't, it wouldn't make a bit of difference, O king. We still wouldn't serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up."

Daniel 3

19 Nebuchadnezzar, his face purple with anger, cut off Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace fired up seven times hotter than usual. 20 He ordered some strong men from the army to tie them up, hands and feet, and throw them into the roaring furnace. 21 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, bound hand and foot, fully dressed from head to toe, were pitched into the roaring fire. 22 Because the king was in such a hurry and the furnace was so hot, flames from the furnace killed the men who carried Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to it, 23 while the fire raged around Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

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24 Suddenly King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in alarm and said, "Didn't we throw three men, bound hand and foot, into the fire?" "That's right, O king," they said. 25 "But look!" he said. "I see four men, walking around freely in the fire, completely unharmed! And the fourth man looks like a son of the gods!" 26 Nebuchadnezzar went to the door of the roaring furnace and called in, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the High God, come out here!" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walked out of the fire. 27 All the important people, the government leaders and king's counselors, gathered around to examine them and discovered that the fire hadn't so much as touched the three men — not a hair singed, not a scorch mark on their clothes, not even the smell of fire on them!

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28 Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel and rescued his servants who trusted in him! They ignored the king's orders and laid their bodies on the line rather than serve or worship any god but their own.

29 "Therefore I issue this decree: Anyone anywhere, of any race, color, or creed, who says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be ripped to pieces, limb from limb, and their houses torn down. There has never been a god who can pull off a rescue like this." 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

(from THE MESSAGE)

A people who individually, yet together, stand for God's will

A story of faith

A people who individually, yet together, stand for God's will

A story of faith**What does your faith say?**

Can God deliver his people from trouble?

But what if he does not?

A people who individually, yet together, stand for God's will

A story of faith**Where do we stand?**

A people who individually, yet together, stand for God's will

A story of faith**Where do we stand?**

Have we personal confidence in who we are?

A people who individually, yet together, stand for God's will

A story of faith

Where do we stand?

Have we personal confidence in who we are?
Does our faith stand when leadership is absent?

A people who individually, yet together, stand for God's will

A story of faith

Where do we stand?

Have we personal confidence in who we are?
Does our faith stand when leadership is absent?
Is vision just leaders' vision that we go along with?

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A story of faith

Where do we stand?

Have we personal confidence in who we are?
Does our faith stand when leadership is absent?
Is vision just leaders' vision that we go along with?
Is 'church' a leadership vision or do we own it also?

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A story of faith

Where do we stand?

Have we personal confidence in who we are?
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Is vision just leaders' vision that we go along with?
Is 'church' a leadership vision or do we own it also?
Do we see church as God's will on earth?

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Do we see church as God's will on earth?
Is the Bible God's word to be lived by in our world today?

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Is the Bible God's word to be lived by in our world today?
Are we people who call out to God.....

"Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

Daniel 3 The test of faith



Daniel 3 The test of faith

'You are
the head
of gold'



Daniel 3 The test of faith

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego



Daniel 3 The test of faith

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

It was Daniel who had been the
spokesperson
It was Daniel who had led the way
It was Daniel who had suggested the
plan of wisdom in each situation
It was Daniel who had approached the
authorities



Daniel 3 The test of faith

Leadership objective –
To release God's people to stand for God

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To release God's people to stand for God

Ephesians 4:11-13

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be shepherds and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Daniel 3 The test of faith

**Leadership objective –
To release God's people to stand for God**

Hebrews 13:7

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Acts 14:21-22

They preached the good news.....22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

Daniel 3 The test of faith

**Leadership objective –
To release God's people to stand for God**

Colossians 1:28-29

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. 29 To this end I labour, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

Daniel 3 The test of faith

Objective

To stand for God under any onslaught

Ephesians 6:10-14

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armour of God **so that you can take your stand** against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, **you may be able to stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, **to stand**. 14 Stand firm then, with.....

Daniel 3 The test of faith

Daniel 3:9-12

"Long live the king! 10 You gave strict orders, O king, that when the big band started playing, everyone had to fall to their knees and worship the gold statue, 11 and whoever did not go to their knees and worship it had to be pitched into a roaring furnace. 12 Well, there are some Jews here — Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego — whom you have placed in high positions in the province of Babylon. These men are ignoring you, O king. They don't respect your gods and they won't worship the gold statue you set up."

(THE MESSAGE.)



Daniel 3 The test of faith

The accusation and motivation

Jealousy some Jews whom you have set over Babylon

Separated...who pay no attention to you...

Rebellious ..they neither serve your gods

Disobedient...nor worship the image of gold you have set up.



Daniel 3 The test of faith

The accusation and motivation

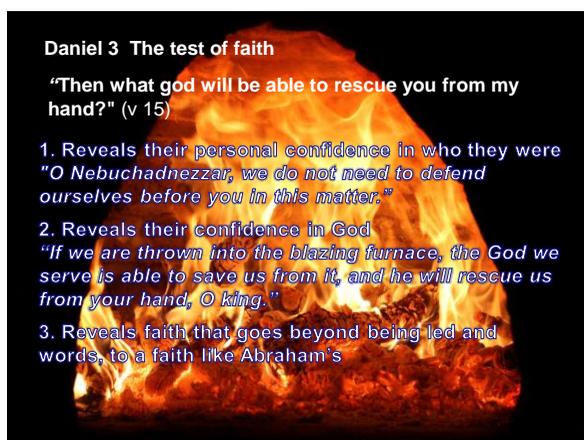
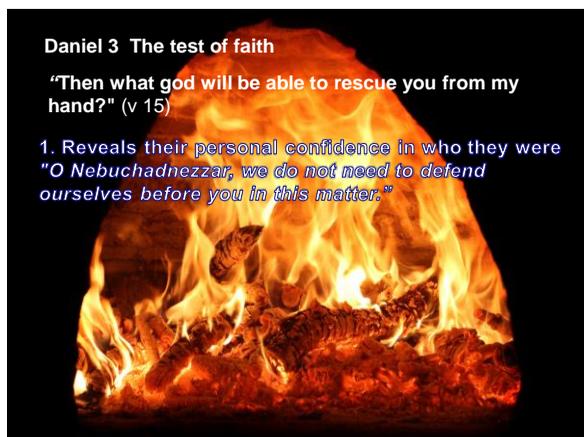
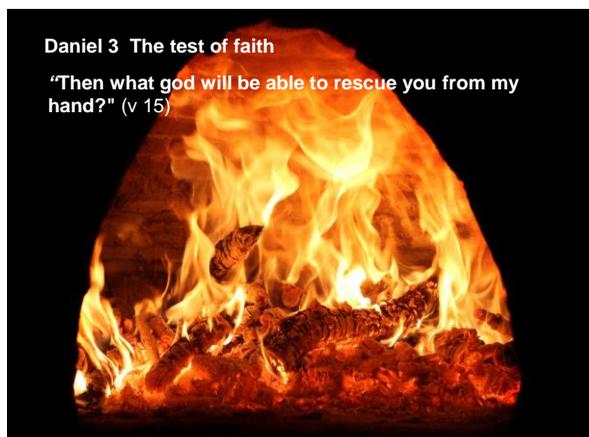
Compromise (All paths lead to God)

Liberality (Don't be narrow, sin is not that bad, come with us)

Permissive (Normalisation of sin)

Equality (We are all the same, so why distinguish)

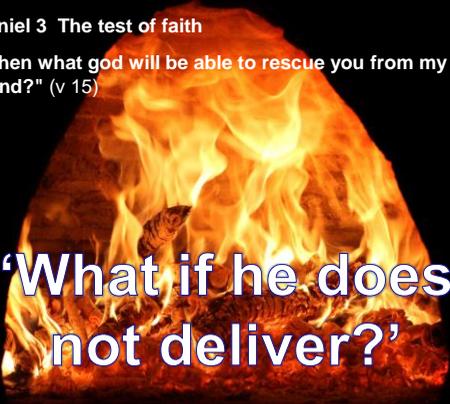




Daniel 3 The test of faith

"Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?" (v 15)

'What if he does not deliver?'

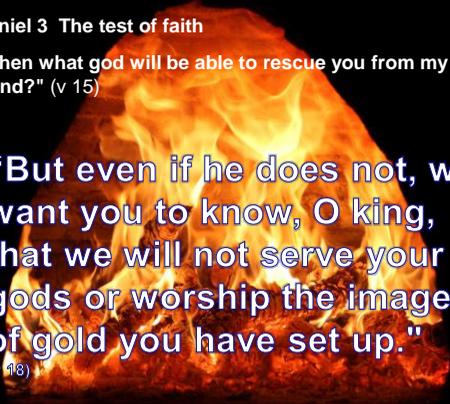


Daniel 3 The test of faith

"Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?" (v 15)

"But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

(v 18)



Daniel 3 The test of faith

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"Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?" (v 15)

"the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king."

