



# FAITH BEFORE THE FIRE

## DANIEL 3:1-30

Woodland Park 1-14-2018

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- In Daniel 1, we were introduced to three companions of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.
  - Like Daniel, these young men were taken from Judah into captivity and trained to serve before the king. (Dan.1:6-7)
  - Also like Daniel, they were blessed by GOD and impressed the king after their training period.(Dan.1:17-20)
  - In our text we learn more about the character of these three young men.
  - Daniel chapters 1 and 3 illustrates the power of a strong faith in those who are young.



- In this lesson I want make 3 points and the lesson will yours.

1) Their Trial (Dan.3:8-15)

2) Their Testimony (Dan.3:16-18)

3) Their Triumph (Dan.3:19-39)

# THEIR TRIAL

- King Nebuchadnezzar made a image and commanded everyone to worship it. (Dan.3:4-7)
- In Dan.3:8-12, the Chaldeans accuse Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego of not bowing down to the gold image.
- And in Dan.3:13-15, the king threatens to throw the 3 young men in the fiery furnace for not bowing down to the gold image.

# THEIR TRIAL CON'T

- Their dilemma:
- They had been prompted over the affairs of Babylon.(Dan.3:12),and they would lose their position as well as their lives.

To save themselves all they had to do was sacrifice their conscience. By conforming outwardly.(bowing down)

- Of course, that would have meant disobedience to GOD.(Exo.20:4-5)
- We can also face similar trials today. We must trust and obey GOD even in the midst of our trials.And not just “go along with the crowd”

# THEIR TESTIMONY

- They demonstrated Faith in the power of GOD.(Dan.3:16-17)
- They believed GOD was able to deliver them from the fiery furnace,if it was HIS will.
- They also demonstrated Faith in the will of GOD.(Dan.3:18)
- If it was GOD'S will not to deliver them,then so be it!
- They still was not going to worship other gods, nor the gold image that the king had set up!
- Job 1:20-21;13:15 "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away;Blessed be the name of the LORD"15 Though HE slay me,yet will I trust HIM"

# THEIR TRIUMPH DANIEL 3:19-39

- The rest of this chapter reveals how they were saved in the fiery furnace.( not from the fiery furnace).And how their Faith led Nebuchadnezzar to bless the one true GOD!(DAN.3:28)
- Let's look at what their trials brought them:
- A new sense of freedom!
- They entered bound, but were soon seen “loose,walking” (Dan.3:23-25).The very thing presumed to destroy them,enabled them to walk freely.
- Our own trials can be used to set us free also.(Jam.1:2-4;Rom.5:3-5)

# THEIR TRIUMPH CON'T

- Their trials also brought them:
- A new source of fellowship!
- Three were put in the fire but now the king sees four! And the fourth one looks like the “Son of GOD”!(Dan.3:25)
- Shadrach,Meshach, and Abed-Nego fellowship with GOD became closer as a result of this trial!
- Our trials also can bring us closer to GOD.Rev.3:21 “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne,as I also overcame and sat down with My FATHER on HIS throne.”

# THEIR TRIUMPH CON'T

- Their trials also brought them:
- A new opportunity to serve in a greater capacity!
- These young men were promoted to even higher positions! (Dan.3:30) because they had a strong faith in the GOD of Heaven!
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego had a strong faith in GOD before their trial came.
  
- They had “Faith Before The Fire”

# FAITH BEFORE THE FIRE

- The same lesson is taught in the story of Joseph. Who in his trials went :
  - 1) From slave to steward
  - 2) From prisoner to Pharaoh's second hand man!

Our faithfulness in trials will lead us also to greater things!

Matthew 25:21 "His lord said to him,' Well done, good and faithful servant ; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord'

# FAITH BEFORE THE FIRE

- What a wonderful example of faith in these three young men!
- They were committed to serving GOD, no matter the consequence!
- They believed that GOD could bring deliverance, and was willing to accept death if HE didn't!
- Let us not overlook perhaps the most important lesson of this story:
- IT BROUGHT GLORY TO GOD! AND THAT IS WHAT OUR LIVES SHOULD DO!
- What about our faith in the midst of our trials?

# THE LORD'S INVITATION

- Hear – Romans 10:17
- Believe – HEB.11:6
- Repent – Luke 13:3,5
- Confess – Romans 10:9-10
- Baptism – Acts 2:38
- And if you are a member and you need to make a confession or request prayer or place membership. Come now!