




Metropolis

metrocalvary  children's ministry

THE FIERY FURNACE

Series: History of Israel –In Exile

Reference: Daniel 3 (Also chapters 1-2 for background)

Today's Theme Verse: ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (*Second Timothy 3:12*)

Theme: God Can Help You Stand for Him

Objectives:

1. The children will understand that by God's grace we can stand for God.
 2. The children will realize that we are blessed when we suffer for God.
 3. The children will know that Jesus who suffered for us is with us when we suffer for Him.
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Introduction Background & Summary:

Introduction: We are setting aside some time to think about some of the heroes of the faith we read about in the Bible. As we look at these heroes we want to see that what makes them heroes is that they trusted in the Lord and they pointed us to Jesus; the greatest of all heroes. Today we are thinking about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are heroes because they remained faithful to the Lord heard and obeyed the word of God, he led the nation to repent, and he pointed the nation to the coming Savior, the Lord Jesus.

Background: The Book of Daniel was written by Daniel the prophet in Babylon. When Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem, “And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand...” (*Daniel 1:2*), he ordered that some of the youths of Israel be brought to Babylon to be taught the Babylonian culture and to serve in the king’s palace. Among these were Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (*Daniel 1:3-7*). These were faithful to the Lord and to His law. When Nebuchadnezzar had a dream (*Daniel 2*) and none of the magicians were about to explain it, the Lord gave the interpretation to Daniel. When Daniel explained the dream, Nebuchadnezzar promoted Daniel and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon. And at Daniel’s request Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were appointed over the affairs of Babylon.

Summary: Later, Nebuchadnezzar built a golden statue and ordered that everyone worship it or else be cast into a fiery furnace (*Daniel 3:1-7*). But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood for God and refused to worship the image (*Daniel 3:8-17*). **God Can Help You Stand for Him.** By God’s grace we can stand for God. They knew that you are we are blessed when we suffer for God. After Nebuchadnezzar sent Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace, he was astounded to see them walking around unharmed in the flames and Jesus was in the furnace with them (*Daniel 3:19-24*). **Jesus who suffered for us is with us when we suffer for Him.** Jesus suffered for us when he died on the cross to pay the penalty for sin. Three days later God raised Jesus from the dead. Everyone who believes in Jesus and repents of their sin is forgiven and receives the free gift of eternal life. Seeing that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were unharmed by the flames, Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that the Lord was the Most High God and he promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (*Daniel 3:26-30*).

Lesson:

I. Nebuchadnezzar’s Statue (*Daniel 3:1-7*)

Nebuchadnezzar built a golden statue 90 feet tall and 9 feet wide (*v. 1*). He gathered all the officials from around the empire to the dedication ceremony for the statue (*vv. 2-3*). He commanded everyone to worship the image when they heard the music play (*vv. 4-5*). Anyone who refused to worship the image would be thrown into “a burning fiery furnace” (*v. 6*).

In the Ten Commandments, God forbids the worship of images (*Exodus 20:4-6*). What would you do? Would you worship the idol and break God’s commandment? Or, would you break the king’s law and risk being thrown into the fiery furnace? Sometimes it’s hard to do the right thing. But **God Can Help You Stand for Him.** By God’s grace we can stand for God.

When the music played, all the people worshipped Nebuchadnezzar’s statue (*v. 7*).

II. The Malicious Report (*Daniel 3:8-12*)

The Chaldeans, a special group of the king’s counselors, reported to Nebuchadnezzar. They reminded the king of his decree that when the music played everyone was to worship the statue (*vv. 8-10*). They reminded the king that whoever did not worship the image was to “be cast into a burning fiery furnace” (*v. 11*). And the Chaldeans reported to

Nebuchadnezzar that certain Jews, whom he had made officials, refused to worship the image. These Jews were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (v. 12).

If you live for the Lord, the world (those who don't know God and are opposed to God) will oppose you. They will try to make you do what God says not to do, or they will try to stop you from doing what God has said you must do. "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted," (Second Timothy 3:12). But **God Can Help You Stand for Him.** By God's grace we can stand for God.

III. Nebuchadnezzar's Challenge (Daniel 3:13-15)

Nebuchadnezzar was very angry that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had refused to worship the image and he had them brought before him (v. 13). Nebuchadnezzar asked Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego if it was true that they had refused to worship the image (v. 14). Nebuchadnezzar gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego another chance to worship the image (v. 15). Nebuchadnezzar presented Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego with a choice – worship the image when you hear the music or be cast into the fire. Sometimes when we have stood for God, and done what is right, we are challenged again to do the wrong thing. Often it is more difficult to stand the second time. But by God's grace we can stand for God. God's grace has given us the armor we need to stand for the Lord (Ephesians 6:10-18). Nebuchadnezzar challenged their belief in the Lord God (v. 15). He said, "And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hand?" He was saying, what good is your stand for your god going to do you when I throw you into the fire. Later Nebuchadnezzar will answer his own question (vv. 28-29).

IV. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand for God (Daniel 3:16-18)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said that to answer Nebuchadnezzar was pointless. He was determined to enforce his decree, and they were determined to worship the Lord God alone (v. 16). Don't debate temptation.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego affirmed their confidence in God's ability to rescue them from the flames. Nebuchadnezzar had said, "who is the god who will deliver you out of my hand?" (v. 15). They said, "our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace" (v. 17). They declared their certainty that God would deliver them from Nebuchadnezzar's hand (v. 17). They were confident that even if they were to die in the flames, God would deliver them spiritually. Confidence in God's salvation for eternity is more important than being delivered from persecution. We are blessed when we suffer for God (Matthew 5:10-11; Acts 5:40-41).

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood for God (v. 18). They told Nebuchadnezzar that even if the Lord does not deliver us from the flames, "we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." They did not know if God would deliver them from the flames, but they trusted the Lord to give them the grace they needed to endure whatever hardship came from standing for Him. **God Can Help You Stand for Him.** By God's grace we can stand for God.

V. Into the Fire (Daniel 3:19-23)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's response to Nebuchadnezzar's offer of a second chance infuriated him (v. 19). Nebuchadnezzar ordered that the furnace be turned up as hot as possible; seven times hotter than normal (v. 19). At Nebuchadnezzar's order, "the mighty men of his army" tied up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and threw them "into the burning fiery furnace" (vv. 20, 21). The furnace was so overheated that, though Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego "fell bound into the burning fiery furnace," the men who threw them into the fire died from exposure to the heat (vv. 22, 23). Nebuchadnezzar had denied the Lord's ability to deliver His servants from his hands (v. 15), but the death of these men demonstrates Nebuchadnezzar's inability to deliver his servants from the Lord's hands.

VI. The Fourth Man (Daniel 3:24-25)

Nebuchadnezzar rose in astonishment at what he saw. He asked his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" To which they answered, "True, O king" (v. 24). There were four things that Nebuchadnezzar saw that

caused him to be astonished (v. 25). 1. Whereas he had sent three men into the fire, he saw four men. 2. Whereas the men he sent into the fire were bound, the men in the fire were unbound. 3. Whereas the fire had killed those men who tried to cast them in, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were walking around unharmed in the fire, and, 4. The fourth man was like “a son of the gods.”

Nebuchadnezzar was a pagan who believed in many gods. The only way he knew how to describe the fourth man in the furnace was to say he looks like a son of one of the gods. In reality, what he saw was the only Son of the one true and living God. The fourth man in the furnace was Jesus hundreds of years before He was born in Bethlehem.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were being persecuted for standing for God and refusing to worship an image. In the midst of their suffering Jesus was with them. Jesus who suffered for us is with us when we suffer for Him. “Those who suffer for Christ, have his presence in their sufferings, even in the fiery furnace, and in the valley of the shadow of death. (Matthew Henry). (Isaiah 43:2).

VII. Nebuchadnezzar’s Response (Daniel 3:26-28)

Nebuchadnezzar called to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire. And he called them, “servants of the Most High God” (v. 26). He told them to “come out from the fire” (v. 26). Nebuchadnezzar’s officials gathered around to see them come out of the fire (v. 27). Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were unharmed by the fire. Neither their hair nor their clothes were burned. They didn’t even smell like smoke. How completely the Lord had protected them (v. 27). Nebuchadnezzar blessed “the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.” He acknowledged the greatness and power of their Lord, but he was yet unconverted. The Lord was not his God. He was the “the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego” (v. 28).

Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that the Lord had delivered them because they stood for Him. They would have died rather than worship a false god (v. 28). God Can Help You Stand for Him. By God’s grace we can stand for God.

VIII. The Decree (Daniel 3:29-30)

Nebuchadnezzar issued a decree that anyone in the empire who speaks against the Lord would be put to death and their home made a trash heap (v. 29). Nebuchadnezzar answered his earlier question. In verse fifteen he asked, “And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hand?” He now knows (v. 29). Nebuchadnezzar promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (v. 30). God helped Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stand for Him and remain faithful to Him through persecution. God Can Help You Stand for Him. By God’s grace we can stand for God. We are blessed when we suffer for God (First Peter 3:8-9, 13-17).

IX. Jesus Suffered for Us

Jesus lived a perfect sinless life, but He suffered and died on the cross. He suffered in the place of sinners like you and me. He died to pay the penalty for sin. And God raised Him from the dead on the third day. Everyone who has faith in Jesus, trusting Him as Savior and Lord, will be forgiven of their sin and receive the gift of eternal life. That means we will live with Jesus in heaven forever. But here on earth, if we stand for God, we will suffer persecution. “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (Second Timothy 3:12). But we know that Jesus who suffered for us is with us when we suffer for Him.

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Christian	Faith	Heaven	Pray

Lesson Title: _____

Scripture: _____

MEMORY VERSE

QUESTIONS I HAVE?

PRAYER REQUESTS

POINTS OF THE MESSAGE

1:

2:

3:



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