

# The Book of Daniel

## God's Prophet and Statesman

- I. Daniel's Exile to **Babylon** (1:1-21)
- II. Nebuchadnezzar's Troublesome Dream (2:1-49)

### III. Nebuchadnezzar's Threat against the **Jews** (3:1-30)

- A. The *Conceit* of the **King** (3:1-3)
- B. The *Command* to **Worship** the King's Image (3:4-7)
- C. The *Conspiracy* of the Chaldeans (3:8-12)
- D. The *Charge* of the **King** (3:13-15)
- E. The **Bold Confession** of **Faith** (3:16-18)

{Part 2}

#### F. The *Condemnation* of the **King** (3:19-23)

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> He **commanded** certain *valiant warriors* who *were* in his army to *tie up* **Shadrach, Meshach** and **Abed-nego** in order to cast *them* into the **furnace** of **blazing fire**.

<sup>21</sup> Then these men were *tied up* in their **trousers**, their **coats**, their **caps** and their *other clothes*, and were cast into the **midst** of the **furnace** of **blazing fire**.

<sup>22</sup> For *this reason*, because the **king's command** was **urgent** and the **furnace** had been made *extremely hot*, the **flame** of the **fire** slew those **men** who **carried up** **Shadrach, Meshach** and **Abed-nego**.

<sup>23</sup> But these **three men**, **Shadrach, Meshach** and **Abed-nego**, **fell** into the **midst** of the **furnace** of **blazing fire** *still tied up*.

#### G. The "*Companion*" in the **Fire** (3:24-25)

<sup>24</sup> Then **Nebuchadnezzar the king** was astounded and **stood up** in **haste**; he responded and said to his **high officials**,

“Was it not **three men we cast bound** into the **midst** of the **fire**?”

They replied to the **king**, “**Certainly, O king.**”

<sup>25</sup> **He** said, “**Look!** I see **four men loosed and walking about** in the **midst of the fire without harm**, and the **appearance** of the **fourth** is like a **son of the gods!**”

## H. The *Confirmation* of a Powerful Deliverance (3:26-27)

<sup>26</sup> Then **Nebuchadnezzar** came near to the **door** of the **furnace** of **blazing fire**; **he** responded and said, “**Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego**, come out, **you servants** of the **Most High God**, and come here!”

Then **Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego** came out of the **midst** of the **fire**.

<sup>27</sup> The **satraps**, the **prefects**, the **governors** and the **king’s high officials** gathered around **and saw** in regard to **these men** that the **fire** had **no effect** on the **bodies** of **these men** **nor** was the **hair** of their head **singed**, **nor** were their **trousers damaged**, **nor** had the **smell of fire** *even* come upon them.

## I. The *Capitulation* of the King (3:28-30)

<sup>28</sup> **Nebuchadnezzar** responded and said, “**Blessed** be **the God** of **Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego**, who has **sent His angel** and **delivered His servants** who **put their trust in Him**, **violating the king’s command**, and yielded up **their bodies** so as **not** to **serve or worship any god except their own God**.”

<sup>29</sup> 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**.”

<sup>30</sup> Then the **king** caused **Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego** to **prosper** in the province of **Babylon**.

# Message Summary *Key Observations*

## A. The *Peril* of Anger and Rage

Then **Nebuchadnezzar** was **filled with wrath**, and his **facial expression** was **altered** toward **Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego**...

...because the **king's command** was *urgent* and the **furnace** had been made **extremely hot**, the **flame** of the **fire** **slew** those **men** who **carried up** Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. (3:19, 22)

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Personal Application → **Cease** from **anger** and **forsake wrath**;  
Do **not fret**; *it leads only to **evildoing***. (Psalm 37:8)

Do **not** be eager in **your heart** to be **angry**,  
For **anger resides** in the **bosom of fools**. (Ecclesiastes 7:9)

## B. The *Presence* of **God** in the **Furnace**

**He (the king)** said, "Look! I see **four men loosed and walking about** in the **midst of the fire** without **harm**, and the **appearance** of the **fourth** is like a **son of the gods!**" (3:25)

## C. The *Powerful Deliverance*

The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king's high officials... saw in regard to **these men** that **the fire** had **no effect** on the **bodies** of **these men** **nor** was the **hair** of their head **singed**, **nor** were their **trousers damaged**, **nor** had the **smell of fire** *even* come **upon them**. (3:27)

## D. The *Praise* of the **King**

1. *Praising* the **God** of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego (3:28a)
2. *Praising* the **Faith** and **Dedication** of the three Jews (3:28b)

## E. The *Proclamation* of the **King**

Therefore I make a **decree** that **any people, nation** or **tongue** that speaks anything **offensive** against...**God**... 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**."(3:29)

## F. The *Prosperity* of the **Faithful**

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

## Personal Application

As **Believers**, we too may face a "**fiery furnace**" for our **faith**, but **God** has **promised**

to **never** leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5-6)

But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob,  
And He who formed you, O Israel,  
“Do not ***fear***, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by ***name***; you are ***Mine!***

“When you **pass through** the ***waters***, I will be **with you**;  
And **through** the ***rivers***, they will ***not overflow*** you.  
When you **walk** through **the fire**, you will **not be scorched**,  
**Nor** will the flame burn you. (Isaiah 43:1-2)

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“Behold, I have ***refined you***, but not as ***silver***;  
I have ***tested you*** in the **furnace of affliction**.” (Isaiah 48:1)

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“**Beloved**, do not be **surprised** at the **fiery ordeal** among you,  
which comes upon you for **your testing**,  
as though some ***strange*** thing were happening to **you**;  
but to the degree that **you share the sufferings of Messiah**,  
keep on **rejoicing**,..

if you are ***reviled*** for the **name of Messiah**, you are **blessed**,  
because the **Spirit of glory and of God rests on you**. (I Peter 4:12-14)

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God is our **refuge** and **strength**,  
a very **present help** in trouble...

The LORD of hosts is **with us**;  
the **God of Jacob** is our stronghold. (Psalm 46:1,11)

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My **flesh** and my **heart** may fail,  
but **God** is the **strength** of my heart and **my portion** forever...

But as for **me**, the **nearness of God** is my good;  
I have made **the LORD God** my **refuge**,  
that I may tell of all **Your works**.  
(Psalm 73:26, 28)

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“At my (**Paul’s**) first **defense** **no one** supported me, but **all** deserted me;  
may it **not** be counted against them.

But the Lord **stood with me** and **strengthened me**,  
so that the **proclamation** might be **fully accomplished**,  
and that all the **Gentiles** might **hear**; and I was  
**rescued** out of the **lion’s mouth**.” (II Timothy 4:16-17)

## Closing Comments

The **deliverance** of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—  
a *picture* of **our deliverance in Messiah?**

- A. Were *we* not facing the “**wrath**” of a **King**,  
having **broken His Laws**? (John 3:36) (Eph. 2:1-3)
- B. Were *we* not facing a **judgment of “fire”** (ie hellfire)”  
(Revelation 20:12-15)
- C. Were *we* not **delivered** by a “**Companion**”, a “**Son of God**”  
who came among us to **loose us** from our **bonds** and **save us**  
from **death**. (John 3:17, 36) (Romans 5:8-9) (Heb. 2:14-15) (I John 2:1-2)