

"THE BOOK OF DANIEL" Faith In The Face Of Fire (3:1-30)

INTRODUCTION

1. In **Daniel 1**, we were introduced to three companions of Daniel: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego...
 - a. Like Daniel, they were young men taken from Judah into captivity and trained to serve before the king - **Daniel 1:6-7**;
 - b. Like Daniel, they were blessed by God and impressed the king after their period of training - **Daniel 1:17-20**;
2. **Daniel 3** reveals more about the character of these three young men...

I. THEIR TRIAL

A. THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO IT...

1. Nebuchadnezzar's image, and his command to worship it - **Daniel 3:1-7**;
2. The accusation against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego - **Daniel 3:8-12**;
3. The king's threat of the fiery furnace - **Daniel 3:13-15**;

B. THE NATURE OF THEIR TRIAL...

1. To save their situation
 - a. They had been promoted over the affairs of Babylon - **Daniel 3:12**;
 - b. They would lose their position as well as their lives
2. To sacrifice their conscience
 - a. All they needed to do was to conform outwardly
 - b. Of course, that would have meant disobedience to God – **Exodus 20:4-5**;

II. THEIR TESTIMONY

A. THEY DEMONSTRATED FAITH...

1. In the power of God - **Daniel 3:16-17**;
2. In the will of God - **Daniel 3:18**;

B. THEY DETERMINED TO SERVE GOD NO MATTER WHAT... Like the apostles who rejoiced to suffer in His name - Acts 5:27-29;

III. THEIR TRIUMPH

A. THE REST OF THE CHAPTER REVEALS...

1. How they were saved in the fiery furnace - **Daniel 3:19-25**;
2. How Nebuchadnezzar was led to bless the true God - **Daniel 3:26-29**;

B. CONSIDER WHAT THEIR TRIALS BROUGHT THEM...

1. **A new sense of freedom!**
 - a. They entered bound, but were soon seen "loose, walking" - **Daniel 3:23-25**;
 - b. So our own trials can be used to set us truly free! - **James 1:2-4**;
2. **A new source of fellowship!**
 - a. There was a fourth person in the fire! - **Daniel 3:25**;
 - b. So our faithfulness in trials will lead to greater things! - **Matthew 25:21**;

CONCLUSION