



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

DANIEL 3:19-28

LESSON: A BOLD FAITH— January 14, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 3:1, 5-18 Nebuchadnezzar erects a golden image (90ft high and 90ft wide) to be set up in the Plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. All was called to the dedication of the statue; and at the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, they were to fall down and worship the golden image that king Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And whoever didn't worship the image would be cast into the fiery furnace. Well, certain Chaldeans were jealous and reported that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not obey the decree. When these three Hebrew youths refused to bow, the king was informed and he was angry, commanding they be brought to him. Well the king questions them about serving his gods and worshipping the golden image. So the king gives them a second chance for them to bow down at the sound...and fall down and worship the image. But if they don't, they will be thrown into the mist of a burning fiery furnace. **The king says** *"And who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?"* They boldly reply: *"we are not worried about what will happen to us. But if we are thrown into the flaming furnace, our God is able to deliver us, and He will deliver us out of your hand, o king. But if He doesn't, please understand sir, that even then we will never under any circumstance serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have erected."* Now, this took bold faith!

LESSON:

I. AN ANGRY ENEMY DANIEL 3:19-23

3:19 Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. In their speaking out boldly, they have made an enemy. The king is furious and his face was distorted with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then he spoke and ordered that the furnace be turned up 7 times hotter than it's usually heated.

3:20 And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. He ordered the strongest men in his army to tie Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego up, and throw them into the burning fiery furnace. That shows how "hot" he was.

3:21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in all of their clothing were bound with tight ropes and thrown into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. It was no doubt that they didn't want them to try to climb out.

3:22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The furnace was extremely hot because it was turned up seven times hotter than usual. And the strong mighty men that threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the flames were burnt to death. They were instantly killed by

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the leaping fiery flames. It goes to show that God is able to protect those that are His, better than Nebuchadnezzar protecting his mighty men. His own orders resulted in the death of his own soldiers.

3:23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego still bound up, fell down in the midst of the burning fiery furnace, but it didn't say that they were burnt up like the soldiers. What a miracle!

II. A CHANGED SUPERIOR DANIEL 3:24-28

3:24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. At this point Nebuchadnezzar could not believe his eyes and asked for confirmation of what he saw. The king was astonished as he looked into the opening of the furnace and spoke, *"Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?"* They answered, *"True, O king."* In other words yes king as your faithful counsellors you had three to be thrown in.

3:25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. The king answers his own question. His eyes didn't fool him. He says, *"Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt..."* The king was not the only one to see this miracle. They were no longer bound. They were walking not hollering and crying. And they weren't hurt; not burning to death as expected. This was truly a miracle! He even says *"...and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."* What did a heathen king know about the form of the Son of God? Only God knows how he came to that conclusion. It could have been an angel or it could have been a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ as the fourth man walking in the midst of the fire. In either case, we know that God sent a heavenly visitor to accompany these faithful men during their time of great trial. And we know that this heathen king spoke a divine truth which was the beginning of his change.

3:26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire. When the king came near to the mouth; the opening of the burning fiery furnace, he called the faithful Hebrew young men *"servants of the most high God."* He called them to come forth out of the furnace, and come to him. He saw the boldness of their faith at work and who stood with them. He saw that they served the Most High God! He saw that they were able to walk out of the fire and not be burned! He saw a powerful God at work that he could not dispute!

3:27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them. The princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors saw this miracle! They knew that fire had power, but could not dispute that the fire they were in had no power upon these men's bodies, nor the hair on their heads singed, neither their coats changed, nor the smell of fire (smoke) passed on them. The proof was seen! What a testimony!

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3:28 Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. Nebuchadnezzar then declares a blessing! *"Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God."* God is able to change the heart of a king! (Proverbs 21:1; Ezra 1:1).

NOT APART OF THE LESSON VERSES 29-30

3:29 Therefore, I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort. The king makes a decree informing his people to acknowledge the power of the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and not to speak against their God. If the people spoke against their God, they would be cut in pieces and their houses would be made a dunghill. Wow! Because there was no other God to deliver like this.

3:30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon. And because of this miracle that changed the king's view and the integrity or bold faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they were promoted

SUMMARY:

Nebuchadnezzar, the king is furious and his face was distorted with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then he spoke and ordered that the furnace be turned up 7 times hotter than it's usually heated. He orders his strongest men in his army to tie them up, and throw them into the burning fiery furnace. Therefore, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in all of their clothing were bound with tight ropes and thrown into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. However, the strong mighty men that threw them into the flames were instantly killed by the leaping fiery flames. And Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego still bound up, fell down in the midst of the burning fiery furnace (**3:19-23**).

At this point Nebuchadnezzar could not believe his eyes and asked for confirmation of what he saw. Looking into the opening of the furnace he asked, *"Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?"* They answered, *"True, O king."* The king saw four men. He even says *"...and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."* They were no longer bound. They were walking not hollering and crying. And they weren't hurt; not burning to death. This was truly a miracle and the beginning of his change! The king spoke to them and told them to come forth and near him calling them *"servants of the most high God."* The princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors also saw this miracle! Fire had no power over their bodies; hair on their heads was not singed, neither their coats changed, nor the smell of fire (smoke) upon them. Nebuchadnezzar blessed their God and declared that no one speaks against their God or there would be consequences because there was no other God to deliver like this. And because of this miracle that changed the king's view and the integrity or bold faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they were promoted (**3:24-30**).