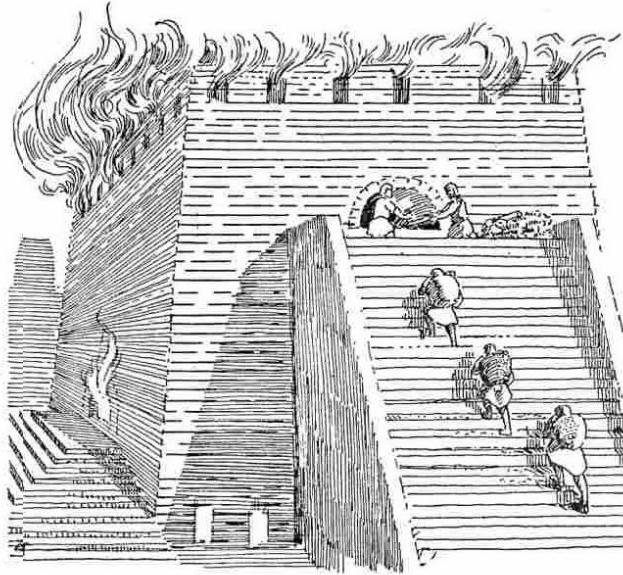


DANIEL 3: 19-30

Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego; therefore, he spake, and commanded that they should heat the



one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his



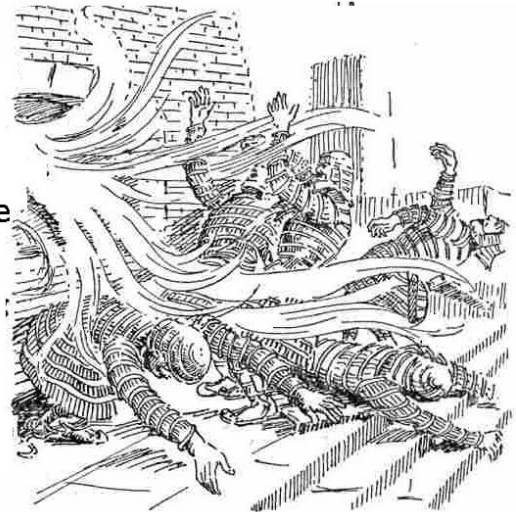
to bind Shadrach Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were



in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were



Therefore, because the king's commandment was urgent and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those



that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

Daniel III: 19-22

Contrast verses 17-18 with verse 19

¹⁷ If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

¹⁸ But *even if He does not*, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

19 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.

The Chaldeans were precise in heating their furnaces, depending on what they were smelting.



Here is a man who has everything! All the wealth and power in the world
and yet he is miserable
—full of wrath and anger—

in contrast to 3 teenagers who are about to die, yet have peace in their souls.

Principle of Wisdom

You can have everything this world affords to give and be miserable
and/or

you can have nothing of worldly possessions and have inner peace and inner joy!

It is amazing how many Americans—rich and poor have so much compared with most of the world, yet full of anger, lust, jealousy, mal-content, etc. and as we move further away from the bible, people will be less and less content... no matter how much they have and how free they are with their bodies: from sex to tattoos to eating.

The Filling of the Holy Spirit + Bible Doctrine in the Soul

is the difference between being content and happiness in the soul and being miserable in the soul, and needing to control everyone.

Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, (filled-describes a state where every part of your being, your mind, your emotions are controlled by this wrath, he could not enjoy any of his possessions because he is filled with wrath) and his facial expression was altered toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego.

How often have you allowed others to change your joy in Christ?

Because he was not getting his way, because these 3 teenagers were at peace—even in facing death, Nebuchadnezzar's whole countenance changed.

The mind effects the body...

NIV Proverbs 25:28 Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control

Self-control is a Fruit of Holy Spirit for believers who walked by faith in the Holy Spirit. Like everyone who loses self-control Nebuchadnezzar is not thinking correctly increasing the heat of the furnace 7x would endanger his own servants, in fact it will end by killing some of his most valiant soldiers and as far as these 3 young people, it simply assured them of a very quick death, not a prolonged dying process.

There are a few principles we learned from our Lord in John chapter 15.

1st the world hates you! If you are a believer in JESUS CHRIST, and especially if you **FOLLOW** JESUS CHRIST and growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST the world will hate you.

Then in **16:33** in me you may have peace in the world you have tribulation

Count on it, in the world you will have tribulation...FIERY FURNACE—but in JESUS CHRIST you may have peace.

Not every believer will experience this peace in the storms and fires of life...this depends on **walking, living in the power of HOLY SPIRIT** for a Fruit of Holy Spirit is **PEACE**.

²⁰ He commanded (in his out of control rage) certain valiant warriors (heroes of battle, the brave) who *were* in his army (proven themselves on battlefield) to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego in order to cast *them* into the furnace of blazing fire.

When you are controlled by rage, you lose sound thinking,
he is going to forfeit the lives of these brave soldiers out of his anger.

Cast Into the Fiery Furnace — Fiery Test of Life

²¹ Then these men 3 teenage friends of Daniel; heads of State, servants of the true God;

Now the **HOLY SPIRIT** does something interesting;

The **HOLY SPIRIT** tells us their dress for being cast into the furnace 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.

Their trousers (not pants but a tunic)

their coats (the best of outer garments)

their caps (why mention this? Caps denoted high rank)

and their other clothes (remember these were high ranking men of the Babylonian Empire and outer garments were glamorous and signified men of high rank.)

Why did the HOLY SPIRIT mention their clothing?

You will recall that when JESUS CHRIST was crucified they stripped Him of His clothing to humiliate Him and to demonstrate how he was loathed by the Romans.

Now as to these 3 teenagers (from Nebuchadnezzar standpoint) Nebuchadnezzar shows that no one was exempted from his anger; **but God worked this to His Own Glory** in that when **THEY COME OUT OF THE BLAZING FURNACE THEY WILL BE AS STATELY AS WHEN THEY WERE THROWN IN WITHOUT SCORCH OR SMELL OF FIRE-COMplete DELIVERANCE**

22 For this reason, because the king's command *was* urgent (when you are controlled by anger, it has to be done now!) and the furnace had been made extremely hot, (7 times hotter than normal) the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego.

Think about this, Nebuchadnezzar will lose some of his finest warriors out of his uncontrollable anger at these three men, just because they refused to worship idols and worshipped only the true God.

It should not surprise any Christian that Christians are becoming the “enemy of the State” here in America. (*Roman Catholics and Evangelicals are on various list of radical terrorist by our government*)

When commands and laws are given out of emotionalism, out of reaction, they always hurt the innocent. The emotional movement to gun control here in America — take guns away from the innocent, law abiding citizens.

If we were serious about this, why not make murders by guns a capital offense? – (you will be executed if you use guns to kill someone)

Don't blame the guns; don't punish the law abiding citizens; execute the criminals. And both trial and execution will be **immediate**...not 10 years later.

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

What a beautiful picture of the **POWER OF GOD TO DELIVER**. These 3 young men are in a completely helpless, hopeless situation...they are simply going to **trust their God to do the impossible**.

While the men who were to throw them into the furnace were consumed by the fire, the three teenagers **fell** into the furnace.

THE HOLY SPIRIT uses the Aramaic word to **fall down**--the wording presents the picture that these **young men were thrown down—from the top into the fiery furnace**.

Remember that this furnace was used for several different things... like smelting gold or iron, etc; for making bricks for building; and for burning trash; and of course for the killing of people so **there was an opening at the top as well as a lower opening**.

Gleason L. Archer describes these structures:

“it would seem that Mesopotamian smelting furnaces tended to be like an old-fashioned glass milk-bottle in shape, with a large opening for the insertion of the ore to be smelted and a smaller aperture at ground level for the admission of wood and charcoal to furnish the heat”

This would explain the 3 young men being thrown into the furnace as well as King Nebuchadnezzar looking into the furnace and seeing 4 men inside.

And yet as they fell into the fire they probably were thinking of the words of **Jeremiah 32:17** *Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You,*

and

27 Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?”

Fourth Man: Who and Why?



24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he 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.”

So many things are happening at this point:

Nebuchadnezzar is seated in a royal chair where he will not be burned but could see everything going on inside the furnace...he wants so much to see Shadrach, Meshack and Abed-nego burning and screaming from the suffering of the fire.

But as these 3 fell into the furnace and as King Nebuchadnezzar intently watched, *he was astounded*. The Aramaic word means to be **struck suddenly with or by something completely unexpected!**

What is going on is that Nebuchadnezzar is having great emotional Swings, from being filled with **wrath** look at the contrast of verses 19 and 24:

Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath to the point where his facial structure was altered to Nebuchadnezzar was astounded (overpowered with amazement) by something totally unexplainable, unaccountable.

God is working on this evil violent man and his own body and mind are reacting in astonishment.

Note what is said: **stood up in haste** leaped up—instinctively!

There is something going on completely unexplainable

1. His own top military personal are dying and screaming due to the heat
2. But as Nebuchadnezzar looks intently into the fire and the first thing that strikes him is that he does not see just the three teenagers being burned up and screaming. but he does see something that shocks him:

...what shocks is seeing **JESUS CHRIST**

Nebuchadnezzar is one of the first people in history to see the Pre-incarnate Christ.

3. What is so amazing is that with the flames and the smoke he should hardly be able to see anything but he clearly sees 4 men. They cast 3 men---bound into the fiery furnace and yet they are no longer bound and there are 4, not three!

25 He said, “Look! (He turns and says this in amazement) I see four men (we put 3 men in and yet I see four Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego and Lord Jesus Christ)
loosed (this is very important the only thing the fire burned away was their bondage, which had kept them from moving!) *and walking about in the midst of the fire* (not being burned up, not screaming, not wailing, not even crawling on the floor of the furnace, but just walking about – “hanging out”! probably talking!)
without harm, (this is a fulfillment of what God said over 100 years earlier)

Isaiah 43:1-4a...The **I love you** passage!

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!
² “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.
³ “For I am the LORD your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I have given Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in your place.
⁴ “Since you are precious in My sight,
Since you are honored and I love you,

and then Nebuchadnezzar says something interesting about the 4th man
and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of *the gods!*”

1. NIV and NASB a son of the gods while KJ the Son of God capitalizing both Son and God, obviously referring to Jesus Christ.
2. Now, both KJ and NASB are grammatically correct! How can that be? In Biblical Hebrew we have **elohim** which can be translated plural *gods* or singular God.

When in the singular it is used to refer to the one true God, however the plural can be used to refer either to all three members of the Godhead: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit or it can be used to the fullness or majesty of the God of the Hebrews – our God. the same principles are applied to the Aramaic **elohim**.

3. In our study, in Daniel 3, in refer to the words of Nebuchadnezzar who was polytheistic or worshipped many gods the NASB and NIV are to be preferred translating what Nebuchadnezzar said: **the fourth looks like a son of the gods.**
4. At this point Nebuchadnezzar does not believe in the one unique God of Israel, nor does he know anything about the trinity of the Hebrew God. To him, the fourth figure while looking like a human also looked different than the other three, having the appearance of deity.
5. Nebuchadnezzar does not know that the God of the Hebrews is the one and only true God. He will later, but at this point he does not know about the uniqueness of the God of Israel.

Deuteronomy 6: 4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!”

Biblical Archaeology Society just had an article on how this would have been understood by the Jews.

Shama Yisrael Hear O Israel the Lord is our God, the Lord Alone.

(Or we could translate this as)

Hear O Israel the Lord is our God, the Lord is the Unique One.

The original Hebrew is written in six words: hear O Israel the Lord (YHWH) our God (*Elohiym*) the Lord (YHWH) One, Unique or alone.

To the Jews this meant:

1. That only **YHWH** was their God.
2. This was also a monotheistic declaration about their God.

They did not recognize other idols as gods.

At this point in his journey Nenbuchadnezzar is not yet saved.

Nebuchadnezzar still recognizes many gods, but he will soon come to know and believe in the Hebrew’s God as the only God.

Why the appearance of the fourth figure?

1. The fourth figure was the pre-incarnate Christ. JESUS CHRIST , the Son of God.
2. JESUS CHRIST did not need to be physically present for delivering Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego through the fiery furnace or even for their benefit, any more than He needs to be physically present with us, with you, with me, when we are going through a fiery test.
3. So why is JESUS CHRIST present here in the fiery furnace? One reason is out of the love of JESUS CHRIST for these 3 young men. He is impressed with their faith and desires to be there with them. This is a beautiful picture of our seeing JESUS CHRIST with us in the storms of life.
4. But the primary reason for JESUS CHRIST being there was for the benefit of Nebuchadnezzar, to bring Nebuchadnezzar closer to his eternal Salvation.
5. Note carefully the first thing Nebuchadnezzar notices as he looks into the furnace: he sees 4 men. This attracts his attention first of all.
6. Next Nebuchadnezzar realizes is that this 4th man looks like the Son of gods He will soon learn that indeed this is the Son of the God.
7. Nebuchadnezzar realizes that the Most High God of SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO had sent this 4th figure. verse 28 God the Father sends His Son, JESUS CHRIST to the world
8. And Nebuchadnezzar gives the heart of the gospel in verse 28 which we will note later *to deliver His servants who put their trust in Him*

So the primary reason for JESUS CHRIST being in the furnace was for the benefit of Nebuchadnezzar.

This demonstrates how much our God will do to bring us into eternal relationship with Him!

What did God do to bring you to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ?

Nebuchadnezzar certainly does not know about the coming of the Son of God as the Promised Messiah.

But he knew enough when he saw this fourth figure, that he has the appearance of the **Son of God!** We do not know what he saw, but this fourth figure had a **glorious radiance** in appearance.

Nebuchadnezzar did not know it but he was looking at the
Pre-incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ.
SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO
were **victoriously delivered** through the fiery furnace

Why cast into the Fiery Furnace?

Lessons:

1. They trusted God and He was faithful!
2. This is difficult for some to grasp, but no matter what would have happened to these 3 young men, God would have been faithful: had they died in the furnace and taken to Abraham's bosom (place of believers in OT after death) or as it were they lived. Either way God is faithful.
3. Wisdom of Daniel is that no matter what God decides to do, God is glorified and it is good for the believer. Romans 8:28
4. One of the lessons for history is that God would guard, protect and deliver the Jews under the most adverse of circumstances. through the times of the Gentiles. In fact the fiery furnace still waits for Israel during the 7 years of the Tribulation.
5. Being delivered both through and from the flames of the fire of this furnace is a picture of all those who believe in JESUS CHRIST being delivered from the lake fire for all eternity. Our God is Able to deliver these three and He is able to deliver all who believe in Him from the eternal lake of fire.
6. **WISDOM of DANIEL:** Being cast into the fiery furnace was not about these 3 young men. They had done nothing wrong (no sins)! It was for the benefit of others. So often in life we suffer not for or because of ourselves, but for others. Be sure you get the whole picture here; the entire Babylonian empire is here; is watching all that is going on. Not just the king but people from many nations and they are witnessing 3 teenagers trusting in their God, and they are learning about the power of the God of these 3 young men and they are learning of the faithfulness of their God. Never before had they witnessed anything like this.
7. Believers throughout history will be cast into a fiery furnace and God will deliver. We each have our own fiery furnace. The great test is seeing God as more real than circumstance you may be in! !
8. And just as the fire released these 3 young men from the bondage of the ropes God often uses tribulations in life to release us from the bondage of sin and of the Law, which keep us unable to walk in power and leading of the Holy Spirit but when these shackles are broken, even if by adversity, we are then free to walk by faith in HOLY SPIRIT.
Few have to stay in the fiery furnace very long, but some do!
9. Your time in the fiery furnace is a time of Faith!—tested —prove more valuable than gold 1 Peter 1:7
⁷ so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

But please remember, **Is your faith the faith God is looking for?**

Are you trusting God or self or others?

and what are you trusting God to do?

These 3 young men were not trusting God to get them out from this furnace
or even through it...

they kept trusting God,

in spite of what God chooses to do.

Are you trusting God to remove the fiery trails of life?

or are you trusting God to get you through the fiery trials of life?

or are you simply trusting God, no matter what happens to you?

Remember the lesson of **Job** from chapter 42:

I retract all I have said, you are God, I trust you!

JESUS CHRIST will never leave you

Isaiah 41:10

‘Do not fear, for I am with you;

Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you, surely I will help you,

Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’

If you keep your mind stayed on Him, not on circumstances of life,
He will keep you in perfect peace in the midst of fiery furnace of life.

Isaiah 26:3-4

³ *“The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace,*

Because he trusts in You.

⁴ *“Trust in the LORD forever,*

As long as Peter kept his eyes on the Lord, he walked on water,
but as soon as he took his eyes off the Lord, immediately he started drowning.

Whether you are in the fiery furnace of life or the stormy seas, God can and will sustain you,
if you keep your eyes on Him and keep enduring by faith!

Isaiah 40:28-31

²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Everlasting God, the LORD,
the Creator of the ends of the earth
Does not become weary or tired.
His understanding is inscrutable.

²⁹ He gives strength to the weary,
And to *him who* lacks might He increases power.

³⁰ Though youths grow weary and tired,
And vigorous young men stumble badly,

³¹ Yet those who wait for the LORD
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up *with* wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.

Note what Nebuchadnezzar saw in verse 25

He saw 4 men not three loosed of their bonds:

walking about when you walk with JESUS CHRIST , with THE HOLY SPIRIT, the bonds of sin are broken and you are free to walk about

without harm—**When you walk with the Lord in power of THE HOLY SPIRIT you are safe anywhere on earth, under any circumstance**

...and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods

All Nebuchadnezzar can do is to relate this to his own unbelieving mind of his own gods... again we do not know what He saw but it was glorious!

26 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.

Sufficient time had passed for the furnace to cool down so that Nebuchadnezzar could come near it. It would have been most difficult to keep that furnace 7 times hotter than normal. So Nebuchadnezzar has had plenty of time to observe these four in the furnace; to think about what he was seeing and as he stood there looking, thinking, he came to realize that no Babylonian god could do what he was witnessing

He was witnessing two things:

One: **how awesome and miraculous was the God of SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO** and

Two: **how totally inadequate were the gods of Babylon.**

When you are going through fiery trials in life you may learn **how inadequate are the things you have been depending upon** and **how awesome is your God.**

And I do not mean that God will necessarily deliver you through the fiery trials, but you can have **inner joy and peace** that only the Holy Spirit can give!

What did Nebuchadnezzar learn this time?

"Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!"

Nebuchadnezzar is still king and he had to talk with them!

Notice he did not call the 4th man, because he did not know His name.

This time Nebuchadnezzar learned that the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego is the Most High God.

That is... **their God is higher than any or all of the gods of Babylon**

and people

that is all he learned.

Nebuchadnezzar has learned a great deal about God of the Jews.

Daniel 2:46-47

⁴⁶ Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense. ⁴⁷ The king answered Daniel and said, "Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery."

Nebuchadnezzar has become God-conscious but that was all.

He is not a believer in the one whom this God is going to send,
that is the fourth person in the fiery furnace.

Now we know why He had the gracious opportunity to see JESUS CHRIST
...to bring him to the point of believing in the savior of these Jews.

God had demonstrated who He was by revealing and interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

But that did not bring Nebuchadnezzar to believe in JESUS CHRIST .
So, God out of His grace and love, allowed Nebuchadnezzar to see JESUS CHRIST .

But people believing in God at God consciousness
and even knowing about JESUS CHRIST
does not save.

You have to believe in this fourth person, Jesus, **believe in Him as your Savior.**

Not invite Him into your heart,
Not make Him Lord of your life,
But **Simply Believe in Him as Your Savior.**

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life;
no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Nebuchadnezzar had considered the God of the Jews as just another God. After all he, the great Nebuchadnezzar had defeated and enslaved the Jews. How great could their god be?

He did not realize, nor could he that the God of the Jews had purposefully delivered the Jews into his hands to discipline the Jews and to save multitudes of the Babylonians and spread the gospel throughout the world and save this hard headed Nebuchadnezzar.

27 The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king's high officials gathered around these three men, the fourth, JESUS CHRIST is gone *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.*

Complete deliverance! not even the smell of smoke will remain after you walk out of the furnace

The Clearest Presentation of the Gospel in the Old Testament

28 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.

Nebuchadnezzar give the clearest statement of the Gospel in the Old Testament and yet he himself does not understand the significance of what he is saying.

He is correct that God sent someone to help Shadrach, Mesach, and Abed-nego

He is wrong in declaring that God of the Jews had sent His angel.

Angels are created beings,
The fourth figure sent by God is deity –Jesus Christ

God the Father sent JESUS CHRIST to deliver these 3 young men, just as God the Father sent JESUS CHRIST to deliver all mankind out of the fiery furnace of the Lake of fire.

And God the Father has sent God the Holy Spirit to deliver believers out of the fire of sin and empower them to walk in and through all the trials of life.

Nebuchadnezzar understands something that many Christians do not understand today:

Nebuchadnezzar states the gospel of grace

He has sent and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him,

Nebuchadnezzar without knowing it has just stated the heart of the gospel, by which he, himself will be saved.

1. The Gospel begins with a righteous, loving all powerful God
2. The need of the gospel is that all mankind are headed toward lake of fire and in need of a Savior
3. God out of His grace and love **sends a Savior, His only son**
4. God will deliver and/or save all who put their trust in Him. This is remarkable, the way Nebuchadnezzar words this, so few have this grasp of Salvation by Faith alone in Christ alone!

But this is also a declaration of the gospel for believers God the Father has sent His servant—God the Holy Spirit to save, deliver every believer who trust in THE HOLY SPIRIT from the power of sin.

The Battle is a Battle of Faith

these men are not delivered because they earn or deserve to be delivered;

these men are delivered not because they serve Him;

these men are delivered because they trust in the Lord!

who put their trust in Him

Hithpeel perfect—intensive—**simple faith** in a time of great adversity. The Aramaic word used is the word for faith, **to trust**, to trust in a person.

Nebuchadnezzar realized that these 3 teenagers **trusted their God, and their God responded to that faith** by sending them one to deliver them.

The Faithfulness of God responds to our simple faith.

Nebuchadnezzar realized they disobeyed him, but **trusted their God**

His servants who put their trust in Him, (and in so doing) violating the king's command, (to worship his gods and bow down to the image he had made.) **It does not matter what the world tells us to do, we must serve the Lord and only the Lord.**

and (in so doing, these 3 young men) yielded up their bodies (to be violently killed) so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.

There Are Some Things Worth Dying For

A lesson learned from Nebuchadnezzar

Sometimes it takes a long time for a person to believe in JESUS CHRIST .

But God is patient and faithful.

So don't ever just give up on someone.

It may be a long time before they will believe in JESUS CHRIST .

They may even know a lot of the bible, and yet not believe, only to believe just prior to dying.

The criminal who died on the cross next to our Lord, knew a great deal of truth about this Jesus, and yet just before dying, he believe in JESUS CHRIST .

Nebuchadnezzar has a very hard head, most resistant to the gospel, but he will eventually believe in the coming of the Jewish Messiah.

Nebuchadnezzar continues in his Inherited Sin Nature (ISN) to demonstrate not his faith in the God of the Jews but in his violent nature.

29 “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.”

Violent nature of Nebuchadnezzar This sounds like the Muslims of today!
Nebuchadnezzar saw the miraculous power of their God but did not pay attention to the source of this power.

This God was still just another god, but probably superior to all of the other gods.
Notice carefully what he says and does not say.

They are not to speak against this God—he still has not asked His name.

He does not demand that they worship and serve this God! **you cannot demand anyone to believe in JESUS CHRIST** ; you cannot demand that anyone serve JESUS CHRIST . this is up to the individual as to whether or not he will **believe in** and **serve** JESUS CHRIST .

Most of you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, but do you serve him daily?

There are so many truths in the bible that are violated throughout the history of the church.
Things like denominations and State religions.
State sponsored religion violates the free will of the gospel.

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

Notice, these 3 young men have done nothing for the king to be rewarded.

This is a picture of our relationship with our God,
we do not earn nor deserve blessings from Him.

We could spend a great deal of time on the following but I am going to just give you an outline so that we might move on to chapter 4 and what we are about to look at is from several students of the bible. Men like **Clarence Larkin; Louis Talbot; and M. R. DeHaan**

Chapter 3 of Daniel is a prophetic picture of Israel in Tribulation

1. Nebuchadnezzar builds his statue and demands the Jews to fall down and worship it; which they refuse to do and are thrown into the fiery furnace but are miraculously deliver and then exalted
2. This Is A Picture Of Believers Throughout History Who Continue To Trust God In The Storms And Fires Of Life And **How God Is Faithful**
3. But this is a prophetic picture of the history of Israel in the period of the Tribulation

Many point out the predominance of the number “6” in Nebuchadnezzar statute and the Mark of the Beast being **666**.

4. Daniel 9:27 introduces the Tribulation and the setting up of the image, statute of abomination
5. This is what is covered in Revelation 13:13-18

6. JESUS CHRIST prophesied about this statute, this image, this abomination:
Matthew 24:15-22
7. Paul writes of the command to worship the false image. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
8. But when Jews refuse---the 3 teenagers are a picture of the 144,000 of the tribulation who refuse to bow down and witness concerning Jesus Christ and who go through the fiery furnace of the Great Tribulation or the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation
9. But they—as a nation—will be delivered through this fiery period of history.
Isaiah 43:2 and 5
10. And as JESUS CHRIST came into the fiery furnace and delivered SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO so **JESUS CHRIST will come once again and deliver His people from the Tribulation**
11. Then like the 3 young men, **Israel will be exalted in the Millennium**