

Nebuchadnezzar's Gold Statue and the Fiery Furnace



DANIEL 3:1-30

**TEXT, EXPOSITION AND PRACTICAL
HELPS**

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DIVISION II

The History and Destiny of the Nations: Six Pictures Revealed in Daniel's Prophecies, [Daniel 2:1–7:28](#)

Nebuchadnezzar's Gold Statue and the Fiery Furnace: A Picture of the Faith and Submission Needed Before God, [Daniel 3:1-30](#)

([Daniel 3:1-30](#)) **Introduction:** no one can escape the *fiery trials* of life. No person can escape the troubles or problems of life. Every one of us experiences adversity, affliction, anguish, distress, grief, hardship, sorrow, unhappiness, misfortune, pain. Sooner or later all of us face *hard times*. In such times, we need a strong, steadfast faith in the LORD. We need to surrender, submit our lives to the LORD, trusting Him to deliver us.

A strong, steadfast faith and submission to God is the practical subject of the present Scripture. Internationally, Nebuchadnezzar faced a very serious problem due to the enormous size of his empire, an empire that had conquered all the nations stretching from Babylon to Egypt.

How was he to unify so many different nationalities, languages, cultures, and peoples? While thinking about the complex problem, the king came up with an idea. What he needed to do was institute a *state religion* and rally the people around that religion. This common attachment to the *state religion* could be the unifying thread of the empire. After all, it was the state that provided security, prosperity, and public services for the people.

Certainly this fact alone should cause the people to mobilize and willingly give their loyalty to so great a provider as the state. To achieve the people's loyalty, one thing was needed: a religious symbol of the state that the people could worship. Remembering the huge statue from one of his dreams years before and the fact that he was the head of gold on that statue, Nebuchadnezzar knew what his symbol would be. Thus he constructed a huge gold statue as the representation of the new state religion.

This is, *Nebuchadnezzar's Gold Statue and the Fiery Furnace: A Picture of the Faith and Submission Needed Before God*, [Daniel 3:1-30](#).

1. **The building of a huge gold image: the faith of true believers tested (vv.1-12).**
2. **The sentence of Daniel's three friends to the fiery furnace: the steadfast faith needed before God (vv.13-23).**
3. **The results of the friends' steadfast faith: God's deliverance (vv.24-30).**

1. (Daniel 3:1-12) Faith, Tested, Daniel's Three Friends—Faith, Duty, to Be Loyal—Tests – Tested, Duty, to Trust God—Tests – Tested, Example of, Daniel's Three Friends—State Religion, Within Babylon, Worship Demanded—Worship, of the State, in Babylon—Worship, of the State, Rejected by Daniel's Three Friends—Worship, False, of the State, Rejected by Daniel's Three Friends—Nebuchadnezzar, Institution of State Religion, Rejected by Daniel's Three Friends—Statue, Built by Nebuchadnezzar, to Institute State Religion—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Faith Tested, Refused to Worship False Gods.

Nebuchadnezzar constructed a huge gold statue to represent the great state of Babylon. His purpose was to rally the people around this symbol in order to unify the empire and his own personal power. Of course, demanding that the people commit their first loyalty to the state caused a serious problem for true believers. Throughout the empire, the faith of true believers was to be severely tested. **The first three** believers to face the test were **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**.

Scripture pictures a dramatic, suspenseful scene *as these three young men* face the crisis of their lives:

a. Nebuchadnezzar constructed the enormous gold statue or image—90 feet high by 9 feet wide (Daniel 3:1). It must have had a large base, for otherwise a statue of this size would be completely out of proportion to the human body.

It should be noted that some interpreters suggest the statue was an *Asherah*, an image something like a totem pole. However, the gold statue probably reflected the human image of Nebuchadnezzar's former dream (**Daniel 2:31-33**). The huge image was not built in the city of Babylon, but rather in the plain of Dura, which was about 15 to 16 miles outside the city. Why this particular site was chosen is not stated, but it obviously provided a huge area for large crowds to gather before the statue to declare their first loyalty to the state.

The date of this event is not given, and scholars differ in their opinions. Some suggest a date soon after Nebuchadnezzar's dream about the enormous statue described in **chapter two**. Other scholars suggest a later date of some 20 or more years. If the later date is accurate, this means that Nebuchadnezzar had already destroyed Jerusalem, invaded and conquered Egypt, and completed his thirteen-year siege and conquest of Tyre. While in Egypt, he would have seen the gigantic monuments built by the pharaohs: the pyramids, sphinxes, temples, and statues such as that of Rameses the Great.

Seeing these would have aroused within Nebuchadnezzar a strong desire to build a monument in his own honor, a monument that could be used to consolidate his power and unify the nation. No doubt, pride and a sense of self-importance flooded his soul. After all, the God of Daniel had made him the *head of gold*. And he was unquestionably the ruler of the greatest empire in the world.

b. Nebuchadnezzar used the gold statue to institute a new state religion ([Daniel 3:2-7](#)). As soon as construction was finished, the king summoned all the government officials to attend the dedication of the image ([Daniel 3:2](#)).

Eight ranks of officials are listed, all representing the citizens of their various districts.

These included the following:

1. princes or satraps who were the chief administrative officers over the larger divisions or states of the empire
2. governors or prefects who held a position somewhat like a lieutenant governor or assistant to the princes. Some commentators suggest they were military commanders.
3. captains or governors who ruled over districts within each state or division of the empire
4. judges or advisors and counselors
5. judges or treasurers
6. sheriffs or magistrates
7. all other officials who held positions of leadership throughout the provinces of the Babylonian Empire

All the officials assembled on the appointed day of the dedication service. They stood before the towering statue that Nebuchadnezzar had built ([Daniel 3:3](#)). Suddenly, the herald shouted out the command of the king. This was what the leaders were to do and the instructions they were to carry back to their people. As soon as they heard the royal orchestra begin to play, every official was to fall down before the huge gold statue to declare his first loyalty to Babylon ([Daniel 3:4-6](#)).

In fact, it was a matter of life or death. If any person refused to carry out the king's command, he would immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace. And the furnace was sitting just off to the side where everyone could see the roaring fire.

All of a sudden the music began to play, and thousands of government officials fell down to worship the gold image ([Daniel 3:7](#)). That is, all bowed before the image except three young men. Daniel's three friends stood tall and erect, towering above the sea of humanity bowed down with their foreheads touching the ground.

c. Daniel's three friends took their stand. They would not bow down or worship the golden statue. Therefore the charge of *treason* was bound to be launched against them ([Daniel 3:8-11](#)). Some of the occult or Chaldean advisors immediately approached the king and maliciously denounced the Jews. No doubt these advisors were jealous of Daniel and his three friends, resenting the fact that King Nebuchadnezzar had promoted and showed favor to them. The very thought that the king would elevate three Jews over native Babylonian leaders gnawed at the souls of their advisors.

Note how they emphasized that the three men were *Jews*. A malicious prejudice, a spirit of anti-Semitism, filled their hearts. In the minds of the advisors, the three young men had just betrayed Babylon. Thus they reminded the king of his decree, that anyone who refused to worship before the gold statue and declare his first loyalty to the state was to be executed. The three would be thrown into the blazing furnace.

In summary, the Chaldean advisors cast the charge of treason against **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:12)**. They charged them with being narrow-minded, with refusing to acknowledge Babylon's other gods, with deliberately breaking the king's law, refusing to bow or to worship the gold image that represented Babylon.

Thought 1. These three young men faced the ultimate test of their faith. **They either had to disobey the LORD or disobey the king.** And their decision was a matter of *life or death*. It was easy for the other officials of Babylon to declare their first loyalty to the state, for the crowd believed in many gods. The image representing the state of Babylon was merely another god to be added to the others worshipped throughout the empire.

But not to Daniel's three young friends. They believed in the LORD, the only living and true God revealed in the Holy Scriptures. They knew Him in a very personal way, and they loved the LORD. Furthermore, they knew the Word of God, what God demanded of them. They knew that the LORD is the only living and true God and that He commands them to love Him with all their heart and soul and strength (**Deut. 6:4-5**).

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NASB)

⁴ Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!

⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

From the earliest days of childhood all three of these young men had made the Word of God the center of their lives. Therefore, their first loyalty belonged to the LORD. They could not worship any so-called god formed by the imaginations of men nor give their first loyalty to the state of Babylon. Their worship and first loyalty belonged to the LORD and to Him alone. *Their faith was being tested to the ultimate length, a matter of life or death.*

When our faith is tested, we must continue to trust the LORD. We must cast our life totally into the LORD's keeping. Even if the test is a matter of life or death for us, we are never to deny the LORD. We are to take our stand and continue to confess the LORD. We must entrust the keeping of our souls totally into God's hands. No matter how strong the temptation or how difficult the trial, God expects us to continue to believe and trust Him. Our faith is not to waver nor collapse, but rather to remain strong. Through faith, we can overcome all the tests and trials of life.

Listen to the wonderful promises given by God to believers who remain strong and faithful:

Mark 9:23 (NASB)

“²³ And Jesus said to him, 'If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes.”

John 3:15-16 (NASB)

“¹⁵ So that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 5:24 (NASB)

“²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

John 11:25 (NASB)

“²⁵ Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies.”

John 12:46 (NASB)

“⁴⁶ I have come *as* Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”

John 20:31 (NASB)

“³¹ But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Romans 5:1 (NASB)

“¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 10:9-10 (NASB)

“⁹ That if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

Galatians 3:6 (NASB)

“⁶ Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

Ephesians 6:16 (NASB)

“¹⁶ In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.”

Philippians 3:9 (NASB)

“⁹ And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith.”

Hebrews 11:6 (NASB)

“⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

Hebrews 11:33 (NASB)

“³³ Who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed *acts of* righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions.”

James 1:2-4 (NASB)

“² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

James 1:5-6 (NASB)

“⁵ But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

⁶ But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.”

1 John 5:4-5 (NASB)

“⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

2 Chronicles 20:20 (NASB)

“²⁰ They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the Lord your God and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed.”

Psalms 32:10 (NASB)

“¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked, But he who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness shall surround him.”

Psalms 34:22 (NASB)

“²² The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.”

Psalms 37:3 (NASB)

“³ Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.”

Psalms 37:5 (NASB)

“⁵ Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB)

“⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 29:25 (NASB)

“²⁵ The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.”

Isaiah 26:3-4 (NASB)

“³The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You.

⁴Trust in the Lord forever, For in God the Lord, *we have an everlasting Rock.*”

2. ([Daniel 3:13-23](#)) Steadfast, Example of, Daniel’s Three Friends—Perseverance, Example of, Daniel’s Three Friends—Faith, Example of, Daniel’s Three Friends—Fiery Furnace, Thrown into, Daniel’s Three Friends—Faith, Times of, Steadfast Faith.

Daniel’s three friends were sentenced to be executed in the fiery furnace. In this suspenseful drama, their strong, steadfast faith sets a striking example for us:

a. The king broke out in a furious rage and summoned the three young men to appear before him ([Daniel 3:13-15](#)). Angrily questioning them, he asked if the charges were true. Had they committed treason against the government? Had they refused to bow before the gold image that represented the state? Without waiting for a reply from the three, for some unknown reason, the king angrily demanded that they prove their innocence ([Daniel 3:15](#)).

Interestingly, Nebuchadnezzar was offering the young men an opportunity to save their lives. Most likely it was the king’s high esteem for these men that caused him to give them a second chance. But his esteem for them would not exempt them from declaring their first loyalty to the state. He announced that he would strike up the music again and that they must bow before the state’s gold image. If they refused to declare their first loyalty to Babylon, they would die.

Note the egotistical question the king asked: If they refused to worship the image of the state, what god would be able to deliver them out of his hand? Nebuchadnezzar was exalting himself above all so-called gods. He declared that no god—not even the LORD, the one true God—would be able to deliver these young men from his hand. No god had such power. Their execution in the fiery furnace was assured unless the three young men obeyed the law of the land.

b. The three young men answered firmly: they refused to plead for their lives ([Daniel 3:16-18](#)). Trusting and loving the LORD with all their hearts, they surrendered themselves into the hands of God. They informed the king that they did not need to defend themselves that their first loyalty belonged to the LORD and Him alone. Moreover, they knew that their God was able to save them from the fiery furnace. In fact, they were casting themselves upon the LORD to actually rescue them. But even if the LORD chose not to deliver them, they still could not betray Him. No matter what the king did to them, they could not worship the gods of Babylon nor the gold image that represented the state.

The strong, steadfast faith of these young men is a perfect picture of total surrender to the LORD. Imagine facing the imminent threat of being thrown into a flaming furnace, a furnace so large that four men could stand up and walk about within it. No doubt it had been built to melt the metals and harden the clay for the bricks of the gold statue, as well as for burning the trash gathered from the construction site.

These three believers humbly submitted themselves to God's will, knowing that He could deliver them if He so chose. But they also knew it might be His will for them to perish in the blazing furnace. Simply stated, these young believers knew that God could rescue them, but He might choose to let them die as a testimony to their faith in the LORD. What a testimony of complete surrender and an almost incomprehensible faith—a testimony that is so needed by believers of every generation.

c. The young men's public refusal to obey the king's decree threw Nebuchadnezzar into another violent rage, and his attitude toward them suddenly changed. His face flushed with anger and he ordered that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. He pronounced his verdict: the three young men were to be immediately executed ([Daniel 3:19-23](#)). He commanded some of his strongest soldiers to bind the three and throw them into the blazing furnace ([Daniel 3:19-20](#)). Their execution must become a public example, a warning to other citizens against treason, rebelling against the laws issued by the king and the state.

The soldiers quickly moved to carry out the king's orders. As fast as they could, they bound the three young men and then walked up to the furnace to throw them in. As soon as they approached the opening to the furnace, a blazing, swirling flame leaped out and caught the soldiers afire, burning them alive. The three men, securely tied, fell from the soldiers' grip into the blazing furnace ([Daniel 3:21-22](#)).

Thought 1. In times of trial or temptation, the one thing we need above all else is a strong, steadfast faith. The three young men could have easily compromised their faith.

They could have done what we are so often tempted to do and take the easy way out, thinking such things as these:

1. Everybody else is doing it, so why not me?
2. I have to participate or I will lose my job.
3. I have to go along with it in order to remain friends with my fellow workers.
4. My wife or husband will never know.
5. I can do more if I compromise and stay alive than if I refuse to compromise and die.

A solid, unwavering faith is needed to withstand the temptation to compromise. Throughout life, we will face critical decisions just as Daniel's three friends did. If we choose to deny the LORD, we may escape the threats and the suffering for a brief time, but the day of departure from this world will still come. Eventually, we will die.

And the person who denies the LORD gains nothing but loses everything. He is doomed to face the judgment of God. For this reason, the LORD encourages us to place our faith in Him and to grow a strong and steadfast faith.

Listen to what God's Holy Word says about being steadfast, persevering, and enduring as we follow and serve Him.

Matthew 10:22 (NASB)

“²² You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.”

John 15:9 (NASB)

“⁹ Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.”

Acts 11:22-23 (NASB)

“²² The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch.

²³ Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and *began* to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain *true* to the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NASB)

“⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.”

Galatians 5:1 (NASB)

“¹ It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.”

Galatians 6:9 (NASB)

“⁹ Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.”

Ephesians 4:14-15 (NASB)

“¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ.”

Philippians 1:27 (NASB)

“²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”

Philippians 4:1 (NASB)

“¹ Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long *to see*, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.”

2 Thessalonians 2:15 (NASB)

“¹⁵ So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.”

Hebrews 12:1-4 (NASB)

“¹ Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

⁴ You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin.”

James 1:12 (NASB)

“¹² Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.”

1 Peter 1:13 (NASB)

“¹³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 2:19 (NASB)

“¹⁹ For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.”

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NASB)

“⁸ Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”

2 Peter 3:17-18 (NASB)

“¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

Joshua 23:7-8 (NASB)

“⁷ So that you will not associate with these nations, these which remain among you, or mention the name of their gods, or make *anyone* swear *by them*, or serve them, or bow down to them.

⁸ But you are to cling to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day.”

Job 11:14-15 (NASB)

“¹⁴ If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away, And do not let wickedness dwell in your tents;

¹⁵ Then, indeed, you could lift up your face without *moral* defect, And you would be steadfast and not fear.”

Job 17:9 (NASB)

“⁹ Nevertheless the righteous will hold to his way, And he who has clean hands will grow stronger and stronger.”

3. (Daniel 3:24-30) Faith, Results of, Deliverance—Deliverance, Source of, Faith in God—Daniel, Three Friends of, Rescued from Fiery Furnace—Fiery Furnace, Deliverance from, Daniel’s Three Friends—Rescue, Source of, Faith in God—Shadrach, Deliverance from, Fiery Furnace—Meshach, Faith of, Resulted in Deliverance—Abednego, Steadfast Faith of, Delivered from Fiery Furnace: the total surrender and steadfast faith of Daniel’s three friends resulted in God’s deliverance.

One of the most astounding miracles in all of history took place: **Shadrach, Meshach,** and **Abednego** were rescued from the blazing furnace by the mighty power of the LORD. Scripture graphically describes this amazing miracle:

a. Nebuchadnezzar witnessed the LORD’s miraculous deliverance of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:24-27). Having watched the soldiers catch fire and the three young men fall into the blazing furnace, the king was totally taken aback and utterly stunned by what he saw next. To make sure his eyes were not deceiving him, he asked the officials around him if they had not thrown three bound men into the fire. When the officials said yes, the king shouted, “**Look! Now there are four men walking around in the furnace, unbound and completely unharmed by the blazing fire.**”

Note Nebuchadnezzar’s description of the fourth man: he looked like a *divine being*. Although the fourth person was probably a preincarnate appearance of the Son of God, Nebuchadnezzar knew nothing about Christ. All he knew was that the person looked like a son of the gods.

Approaching as close as he could to the blazing furnace, the king shouted out for **Shadrach, Meshach,** and **Abednego** to come out (**Daniel 3:26^a**). Notice his acknowledgment that the men were servants of the most high God. When the three climbed out of the blazing furnace, the shocked officials crowded around to inspect them (**Daniel 3:26^b-27**). Their bodies and clothes were not even singed. There was not even a smell of fire or smoke on them. All the officials of Babylon, including King Nebuchadnezzar himself, had just witnessed an astounding miracle. The LORD had proven that He is the only living and true God, far more powerful than the so-called gods of this world and the rulers who dare to defy Him.

b. King Nebuchadnezzar submitted himself to the LORD for the second time in his life ([Daniel 2:46-49](#)).

In light of the astounding miracle, the king took three actions ([Daniel 3:28-30](#)).

First, he praised the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego ([Daniel 3:28](#)).

He gave three reasons for praising their God:

1. because the angel of their God had saved them
2. because they had courageously trusted their God and refused to betray Him
3. because they had defied the king and were willing to die for their God

Second, Nebuchadnezzar issued a special decree that prohibited anyone from speaking against the God of the three young men ([Daniel 3:29](#)). If any person dishonored or spoke against their God, he was to be executed by being mutilated and dismembered and his property was to be destroyed. **Note why Nebuchadnezzar issued this decree:** because there was no other god that could save or rescue his people like the God of these three young men.

Third, Nebuchadnezzar promoted Daniel's three friends ([Daniel 3:30](#)). He put them in higher positions of responsibility in the government, and he most likely rewarded them financially as well.

Thought 1. When we walk through the fiery trials of life, the Lord Jesus promises to be with us and to walk with us—no matter the severity of the trial or hardship. He will either strengthen us *to bear* the trial or *deliver* us from the trial.

If we truly follow Christ, obeying God's commandments and living righteously, God will give us the strength to be conquerors over all the crises of life, even over the crisis of death. God watches over us and is aware of even the minutest happenings in our lives. The LORD loves and cares for His obedient children. Therefore, He takes the crises of life and uses them as a strong witness to His saving power. His hope is that some unbelievers will turn to Him because of the peace and strength He gives to His followers. Thus, we should always walk faithfully before the LORD, even when the fiery trials of life swarm in upon us. When we walk strongly and devotedly, God promises us His wonderful deliverance.

Listen to His Holy Word:

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)

“¹³No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (NASB)

⁸For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came *to us* in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;

⁹indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

¹⁰who delivered us from so great a *peril of death*, and will deliver *us*, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us.”

2 Timothy 4:18 (NASB)

¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

¹⁵and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NASB)

⁵*Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"*

⁶so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?"

2 Peter 2:9 (NASB)

⁹*Then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.*”

Job 5:19 (NASB)

¹⁹From six troubles He will deliver you, Even in seven evil will not touch you.”

Psalms 28:7 (NASB)

⁷The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him.”

Psalms 40:17 (NASB)

¹⁷Since I am afflicted and needy, Let the Lord be mindful of me. You are my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God.”

Psalms 91:3 (NASB)

³For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper And from the deadly pestilence.”

Psalms 107:27-31 (NASB)

²⁷They reeled and staggered like a drunken man, And were at their wits' end.

²⁸Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, And He brought them out of their distresses.

²⁹He caused the storm to be still, So that the waves of the sea were

hushed.

³⁰ Then they were glad because they were quiet, So He guided them to their desired haven.

³¹ Let them give thanks to the Lord for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men!"

Isaiah 41:10 (NASB)

"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."

Isaiah 43:1-2 (NASB)

"¹ 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."

Isaiah 45:2 (NASB)

"² I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars."

Isaiah 46:4 (NASB)

"⁴ Even to *your* old age I will be the same, And even to *your* graying years I will bear *you!* I have done *it*, and I will carry *you*; And I will bear *you* and I will deliver *you.*"

Jeremiah 1:8 (NASB)

"⁸ Do not be afraid of them, For I am with you to deliver you," declares the Lord."

Daniel 6:27 (NASB)

"²⁷ He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, Who has *also* delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."