



Rice Memorial MBC

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A Bold Faith

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 /1913 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **January 14, 2018**

Worship with us at 3201 Mary St until we rebuild our sanctuary at 15th & State.
...We're located just behind Kaufman's Lumber Company in Little Rock Arkansas...

Daniel 3:19-28

Introduction: The situation was exactly parallel to that of captive Israel in Egypt when God performed the most powerful **miracles** of the Old Testament to deliver the oppressed people. God did exactly the same thing here; and those unbelieving scholars who will not believe the **miracles** recorded in Daniel are apparently blind to the unqualified **necessity** for exactly this type of intervention from the Father for that people who were destined, in time, to deliver the Messiah to mankind.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/daniel-3.html>)

Daniel 3:1-7, Nebuchadnezzar the king made an **IMAGE** of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king **sent to gather** together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the **dedication** of the **image** which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then, an herald cried aloud, **To you it is commanded,** O people, nations, and languages, That at what time ye HEAR the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: **And whoso falleth NOT down and worshippeth** shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that **Nebuchadnezzar** the king had **SET UP**.

Daniel 3:12-18, There are **certain Jews** whom **thou hast set over** the **affairs** of the province of Babylon, SHADRACH, MESHACH, and ABEDNEGO; these men, O king, have NOT regarded THEE: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. Then Nebuchadnezzar in his **RAGE** and **FURY** commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do NOT ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden

image which I have set up? Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, **YE fall down** and **WORSHIP** the **image** which I have made; **WELL:** but if ye worship NOT, ye shall be cast the **SAME HOUR** into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and **WHO is that God** that shall deliver you of MY hands?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and **said** to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are **NOT** careful to answer thee in this matter.

IF IT BE SO, our God whom **we serve** is **ADLE to deliver us from** the burning fiery furnace, and **he WILL deliver us** out of thine hand, O king. **BUT IF NOT**, be it known unto thee, O king, that we **will NOT serve thy gods, nor worship** the golden image which thou hast set up.

Thought 1. There is another scripture with the MOST LIGHT available about this incident. And remember, every word is established in the mouths of 2 or 3 witnesses. 2 Cor, 13: 1

Hebrews 11:6, 33-34, But **without FAITH** it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must BELIEVE that he is, and that he is a **REWARDER** of them that diligently seek him.

...Who **through FAITH** subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, **Quenched the violence of FIRE...**

James 1:6-8, But let him ask **in FAITH**, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let **NOT** that man **think** that he shall **RECEIVE** any thing of the Lord. A **double minded (vacillating [CHANGE] in opinion)** man is **unstable** in **ALL** his ways.

Thought 2. So first, we see they had **FAITH** in Yahweh, their God because they were obedient to his **COVENANT**. So, they knew he **HAD** to, and **WOULD** deliver them according it. He keeps his Covenant with his people.

Psalms 89:34, My **covenant** will I NOT break, nor **alter (change)** the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Psalms 111:5, He hath given meat unto them that **FEAR (reverence)** him: he will ever be **MINDFUL** of his **covenant (compact [agreement])**.

Jeremiah 1:12, Then said the Lord unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will **hasten (WATCH) my WORD** to **PERFORM it**.

Thought 3. He **KEEPS** his New Covenant with us as we obey his commandment..

1 John 3:23, And **THIS** is **HIS COMMANDMENT**, That we should **BELIEVE on** the **name (authority)** of his son Jesus Christ **AND LOVE one another**, **AS** he gave us commandment.

John 13:34, A new commandment I give unto you, That ye **LOVE** one another; **AS** (like) **I have LOVED you**, that ye also **LOVE** one another.

Thought 4. Most people believe that the phrase, "But, **IF NOT**" is saying, "But, if God does NOT deliver us." However, if we look at the ENTIRE conversation, we'll see the reality of what really **WAS** said, and **NOT** said.

If they had meant, if God does NOT deliver us, what would be the result? Well, we know that they would not have bowed to the image. They would have been thrown into the furnace, and would have been **BURNED to ASHES: DEAD!**

That being the case, WHY would they say, "But, if NOT be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up"?

What they meant is, **IF YOU DON'T THROWS US IN**, be it known unto thee, O king, that **we will NOT serve thy gods**, nor **worship** the golden image which thou hast set up.

Daniel 3:19-23, 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. 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. 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 because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the **flame of the fire SLEW those men that took up** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, **fell down** bound into the **midst of the burning fiery furnace**.

NOTE: ...In order to make **his threat** most telling, Nebuchadnezzar would probably have used the sort of BRICK KILN required to fire colored-glaze bricks. And if he heated this kind of **furnace** seven times hotter than usual, then one could well believe that the **guards** detailed to throw the prisoners in **would be killed** themselves.

(Source: http://creationwiki.org/index.php/Fiery_furnace)

Daniel 3:24-25, Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was **astonied**, 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. 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 (a son)** of God.

NOTE: This mighty, supernatural deliverance of the three "was designed to SHOW the sovereignty (state of being sovereign [HIGHEST in POWER]) of the **TRUE God** over the nation that had taken Israel captive." It also had the utility of legitimizing the Jewish religion throughout the period, of their captivity.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/daniel-3.html>)

Daniel 3:26-30, Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of 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. 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.

Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his **angel**.. delivered his servants that **trusted** in him ...changed the king's **word**, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

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.

Then the king **PROMOTED** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.