

# Key References:

### Daniel 3:16-18 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

### Daniel 3:24-25 (ESV)

<sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." <sup>25</sup> He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

## Daniel 3:27-30 (ESV)

<sup>27</sup>[...] the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. <sup>28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. <sup>29</sup> Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way." <sup>30</sup> Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

#### 1 - NOT BOWING DOWN TO IDOLS

The basis of Nathan's sermon on Sunday was upon the backdrop of the Jews who were exiled in Babylon in Daniel Chapter 3. What do you know about the history of that time? Who were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

What orders were the three disobeying from Daniel 3:4-12?

Nebuchadnezzar built a golden idol for people to bow down to. What would you say in the modern-day equivalent to this golden image? How are you being asked to bow down to these things?

#### 2 - UNKNOWN OUTCOMES

Read their response to the Nebuchadnezzar in 3:16-18. What stands out to you from their response? Were they 100% certain that God would save them?

Christians don't win every earthly battle. How can knowing the sovereignty of God help us through trails with unknown outcomes?

Read Daniel 3:19–23. Can you think of modern-day examples from the church around the world today of this type of martyrdom? What price are you willing to pay to follow the conviction of God?

## 3 - ANOTHER ONE IN THE FIRE

Read Daniel 3:24-25. Who do you think was the fourth person in the fire? How is supernatural power available to us through trials?

How has God been with you in similar ways through a hard trial? Does the bible promise a trouble-free life to Christians?

# 4 - EXPANSION OF GODS KINGDOM

Read Daniel 3:27-30. How did God use the saving of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to further God's own Kingdom?

How has God used trials in your life or those of others to further His Kingdom?