

# Four Men On The Loose

Daniel 3

## Daniel 3:25

- **Three of the four are strictly criminals, but dangerous only to idolatry and pride**

## Daniel 2

Image; head of gold,  
2:38

Worshipped Daniel

Threatens death to  
own men

Daniel opens his eyes  
to true God

The real fire,  
Hb.12:...29

God of gods, 2:47

## Daniel 3

Entire image of gold,  
3:1

All must worship  
image

Threatens death to  
SMA (own men)

SMA open his eyes to  
true God

Dn.3, the  
consuming fire

Most High God, 3:26

# I. The Proud King

# Nebuchadnezzar, the clown

Thought highly of himself

“Come worship the god I made”

1. He compelled, 2-6

2. Test of allegiance. Is.14:14

3. Used carnal methods, 5-7

4. Lost his temper, 13...19

# Nebuchadnezzar, the rebel

- Fought against true God; lost more than temper, 15-25

# Nebuchadnezzar the slow learner, 15

- Chapter 2: head of gold
- Does he now make an entire statue of gold, thinking he would reign forever?

# Why early Christians died in the arena

- Not because they worshipped Jesus,  
but because they would not worship  
Caesar
- Convicted of hatred of mankind  
(hate crimes)

World hates Christians because  
they are so exclusive



I. The Proud King

II. The Powerful God

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego  
are not focus of this chapter

God is

*Decree*: bow or burn! (15)

*Determination*: burn, not bow! (16...)

*Decision*: neither bow nor burn!

God is in control

(22-24, emphasizes power of God)

# Nebuchadnezzar challenged God, 15-18

Response: *"Our God . . . is able ..."*

- Mt.3:9 (1 Pt.2:5, 9)
- Mt.10:28
- Ep.3:20
- Hb.7:25



Illustrated in  
Daniel 3

I. The Proud King

II. The Powerful God

III. The Pernicious Pressures

## Never said it would be easy

- Command of a king (duress)
- Favor of a king – 2:49, disappoint...
- Peer pressure – stand out
- Threat of punishment / death – burn
- Compromise
- Excuses

Only three of us

We are young

Away from home

Everyone else

If we don't bow, we die

I. The Proud King

II. The Powerful God

III. The Pernicious Pressures

IV. The Persistent Servants

## Gritty fidelity of the three

- Know truth; base convictions and life on it. Chap.1
- Consistent; stood firm, 1:11...19
- Not moved by peer pressure, 7
- Did not pretend to bow, 8-12
- Never hesitated, 16
- Did not elevate king over God, 16
- Trusted and obeyed God, 18
- Did not doubt or presume, 18
- Willing to die for faith, 18

# Trenches of France, WWI

“The first prayer I want my son to learn to say for me is **not**, ‘God keep Daddy safe,’ but ‘God make Daddy **brave**—and if he has hard things to do, make him strong to do them.’ Life and death don’t matter, my son, right and wrong do. Daddy dead is Daddy still. But Daddy dishonored before God is something awful—too bad for words. I suppose you’d like to put in a bit about safety too, old chap—and Mother would. Well, put it in! But afterwards, always afterwards, because it really does not matter near so much.”



## Their reward:

1. God turns furnace into a walk in the park, 19-25
2. Impressive testimony from a heathen, 26-29
  - Fearless, pious conduct of three Jews made God's name known in Babylon

‘We no longer live in a post-Christian society, we live in an anti-Christian society, one in which the Christian faith is dismissed or ridiculed and Christians are considered suspect and their motives and behavior berated’

## Their reward:

1. God turns furnace into a walk in the park, 19-25
2. Impressive testimony from a heathen, 26-29

Eusebius

‘He needs not fear confiscation who has nothing to lose; nor banishment to whom heaven is his country; nor torments when his body can be destroyed at one blow; nor death which is the only way to set him at liberty from sin and sorrow.’

## Their reward:

1. God turns furnace into a walk in the park, 19-25
2. Impressive testimony from a heathen, 26-29

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day – 2 Tim. 1:12