

I NEED A

MIRACLE



Who needs a miracle?

Daniel 3



Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits [90 feet] and its width six cubits [9 feet]; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:1

*Likely made of wood and overlaid with gold.

*The Statue of Liberty in New York harbor is 151 feet tall from its base to the top of the torch.



Turkey

Iraq

Syria

Tigris River

Euphrates River

Iran

Babylon

Mediterranean Sea

Jerusalem Israel

Jordan

Egypt

The Babylonian Empire

606-536 BC

Persian Gulf

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent word to assemble the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. Daniel 3:2

The Various Public Officials

- satraps were chief representatives of the king
- prefects were military commanders
- governors were civil administrators
- advisers were counselors to those in governmental authority
- treasurers administered the funds of the kingdom
- judges were administrators of the law
- magistrates passed judgment in keeping with the law
- The other provincial officials were probably subordinates of the satraps.

Then the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces were assembled for the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Daniel 3:3

Then the herald loudly proclaimed: “To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and men of every language, that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up. Daniel 3:4-5

*Nebuchadnezzar purposed to establish a unified government and also a unified religion. The king constituted himself as both head of state and head of religion. All who served under him were to recognize both his political and religious authority.

– Bible Knowledge Commentary

Then the herald loudly proclaimed:
“But whoever does not fall down and
worship shall immediately be cast into
the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.”

Daniel 3:6

*This was a test of allegiance.

*Nebuchadnezzar regarded the refusal to worship the image as *treason*, not only as a religious offense.

Therefore at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshiped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. Daniel 3:7

*Total and immediate obedience.

For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans (who were jealous of the success of the Jews) came forward and brought charges against the Jews. They responded and said to Nebuchadnezzar the king: "O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree that every man who hears the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, and bagpipe and all kinds of music, is to fall down and worship the golden image." Daniel 3:8-10

**Remember
this
from
Daniel
chapter 2?**

Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. And Daniel made request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon, while Daniel was at the king's court. Daniel 2:48-49

“But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, namely Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. These men, O king, have disregarded you; **they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.**” Daniel 3:11-12

Hebrew Names → Babylonian Names

Names were given by God-fearing parents and then changed by Nebuchadnezzar to omit a testimony to Yahweh, to encourage the Jewish teens to forget God and their homeland

Daniel - Hebrew “my judge is God”

Belteshazzar - Akkadian “(god) Bel, protect the king”

Hananiah - Hebrew “Yahweh has favored me”

Shadrach - Akkadian “I am fearful (of a god)”

Mishael - Hebrew “who is what El is?”

Meshach - Akkadian “I am humbled (before my god)”

Azariah - Hebrew “Yahweh has helped”

Abed-nego – Akkadian “servant of Nego”

(Nego/Nebo was a Babylonian god of wisdom)

Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; then these men were brought before the king. Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?”

Daniel 3:13-14

- *The forces of evil cannot stand being rejected.
- *When confronted, will we admit to resisting evil?
- *Will we stand up the second time?

We can imagine the enormous pressure on Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego to compromise. Everything in front of them – the king, the furnace, the music, their compatriots, their competitors – all of it conspired to convince them to compromise.

Yet God was more real to them than any of those things.

- David Guzik

Where was Daniel?

Since Daniel was appointed to a higher office (Daniel 2:48) he may not have been required to attend or perhaps he may have been elsewhere in the empire carrying out his duties. Or maybe the astrologers did not dare accuse Daniel, who was present but like the other three did not bow. Whatever the reason for his not being mentioned, Daniel's dedication to his God and submission to the Law certainly precluded his bowing before the image. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

Why not bow down?

“You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments,” Exodus 20:3-6

Nebuchadnezzar said, “Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, very well. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?” Daniel 3:13-16

*Evil will always give you another chance to join in.

Why Stand Up?

"First we overlook evil. Then we permit evil. Then we legalize evil. Then we promote evil. Then we celebrate evil. Then we persecute those who still call it evil." – Dwight Longenecker

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. 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.”

Daniel 3:17

*They understood God’s miracle power

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied, “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.”

Daniel 3:18

- Job said, “Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.” Job 13:15
- Obeying God was more important than life to these three, so if God chose not to deliver them, they would still obey Him. – Bible Knowledge Commentary
- They did not walk into the furnace with a guarantee. They walked into the furnace with a conviction. - Osiris Halles

“We are not going to serve your gods”

The statement of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego is remarkable for what it does not have – any hint of an excuse. In a time of testing like this it is easy to think of a thousand excuses that seem to justify compromise. They might have said...

- “There is nothing to gain by resisting; wouldn’t we do more good by living?”
- “We are in a different place; in Rome, do as the Romans do.”
- “We will lose our jobs and our standard of living.”
- “After all, we are not being called to renounce our God.”
- “Everybody else is doing it.”
- “It is only for once, and not for very long. Ten minutes, just for the king. It is stupid to throw our lives away for ten minutes.”
- “This is more than can be expected of us; God will understand just this once.”

- David Guzik

“But even if He does not”

They knew God’s power, but they also knew that they must do what was right even if God did not do what they expect or hope Him to do.

They did not doubt God’s ability, but neither did they presume to know God’s will.

They recognized that God’s plan might be different than their desires. I have my own desires and dreams and I pray that God fulfills them. But if He doesn’t, I can’t turn my back on Him.

- David Guzik

“But even if He does not”

- Even if I don't get this job
- Even if I don't receive good news from the doctor
- Even if my spouse leaves
- Even if I can't pay my bills
- Even if they won't accept me
- Even if the pain never stops

Do we have this much faith?

Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath [fury], 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. He commanded certain valiant warriors who were in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego in order to cast them into the furnace of blazing fire.

Daniel 3:19-20

Then these men 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. For this reason, because the king's command was urgent and the furnace had been made extremely hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire still tied up. Daniel 3:21-23

Why Were They Thrown in the Fire?

These three men were NOT thrown in the fire because they worshipped Yahweh, they were thrown in because they REFUSED to worship Nebuchadnezzar.

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.” He said, “Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods!” Daniel 3:24-25

* The Septuagint says in Daniel 3:24 that Nebuchadnezzar’s attention was caught when he heard the men singing praises in the furnace.



Who was this mysterious fourth man in the furnace? Most Christians understand this person to be the pre-incarnate Christ, the second Person of the Godhead. Another theory is that this fourth person is the Angel of the Lord who appeared to Moses in the burning bush (Exodus 3:2). Note that this theory could also lead to the conclusion that it was Jesus.

The fourth man in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego was thus a theophany or a Christophany.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/who-was-in-the-furnace.html>

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. Daniel 3:26

*God brought them to this place of great faith by preparing them with tests in less dramatic areas. These men stood firm when challenged to eat impure foods and they saw God bless their obedience. That gave them the courage to obey now, when the stakes were much higher.

*Many fail in their obedience because they wait for something “big” to test their faith before they really start to obey God. Some fill their life with many small compromises; yet tell themselves that they will stand firm when it really matters. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego show us that obedience to God in small things really matters.

- David Guzik

The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king's high officials gathered around 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. Daniel 3:27

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.” Daniel 3:28

*The world will notice when believers are different

Nebuchadnezzar said, "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." Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon. Daniel 3:29-30

In Daniel 3:15 Nebuchadnezzar asked, “who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”

- He is the God of the Hebrews (the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego).
- He is the God who sends a Savior (who sent His Protective Angel).
- He is the God of great power (delivered His servants).
- He is the God worthy of trust (who trusted in Him).
- He is the God worthy of full surrender (frustrated the king’s word, and yielded their bodies).
- He is the God who demands exclusive allegiance (that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God).

- This historical incident seems to have prophetic significance as well. In the Tribulation a Gentile ruler (Daniel 7:8) will demand for himself the worship that belongs to God (2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:8). Any who refuse to acknowledge his right to receive worship will be killed (Rev. 13:15). Assuming political and religious power, he will oppress Israel (Rev. 13:7). Most people in the world will submit to and worship him. But a small remnant, like the three in Daniel's day, will refuse. Many who will not worship the Antichrist will be severely punished; some will be martyred for their faithfulness to Jesus. But a few will be delivered from those persecutions by Jesus at His second coming.
- In the Tribulation period God will do for this believing remnant what He did for Daniel's three companions. They withstood the decree of the king, and though they were not exempted from suffering and oppression they were delivered out of it by the God they trusted. No doubt the remnant of believers in that coming day will find great comfort, consolation, and instruction from this incident in the lives of Daniel's three companions. -Bible Knowledge Commentary

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! 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. 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.” Isaiah 43:1-3

(written 100+ years before the life of Daniel)

Praying for Miracles at First Melissa

- Salvations of family members and friends
- Healing of marriages and broken relationships
- Healing of illness and sickness
- Creating and deepening connections among the Body of Christ
- Raising up the next generation of faithful followers of Jesus
- Church construction loan paid off
- Expansion of our church property
- Upgrades to our existing church facilities and campus
- Construction of new church facilities
- Expansion of ministry opportunities

Steps in a “Fiery Furnace” Miracle

1. Standing up for righteousness when most others don't is often very difficult.
2. Standing up for righteousness when most others don't requires a deep and solid faith.
3. Standing up for righteousness when a friend joins you will strengthen your faith and resolve.
4. God is even sovereign over the smallest details... their clothes did not smell like smoke.
5. When you obey God despite pressure to disobey, you will help non-believers see the truth of the faith.

The God of Miracles

God did not reach into the furnace and pull them out. God did not open a door in the side of the furnace and let them escape. God did not stop the fire from the outside. He walked into it.

The miracle was not extraction. The miracle was presence.

- Osiris Halles