

05-31-15

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When I think of that statement... the end is rarely the end... I think of the Bible. Specifically, I think about Bible characters who had at one point thought that it was “the end.” Let’s look at some of these characters.

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Our story continues. In Job 19 it says, “Even when he didn't understand what was going on, he bore that trial with patience. Job knew that God is merciful and righteous, so he never lost his faith in Him.” In the end, Job's health was restored. He overcame his trials, his faith increased, he understood God better and his ending condition was better than his original one (where he started).

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One day the king decided to build a huge image made of gold that stood 90 feet high. King Nebuchadnezzar then made an announcement. "People of all languages, when you hear the music, you must bow down and worship the statue because I have said so. Whoever does not obey and worship the statue will immediately be thrown into a fiery furnace."

So the next time the music played everyone stopped what they were doing and they bowed down to worship this idol. Everyone that is, except for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Some of the king's workers (those who were jealous that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had such good jobs) saw that they would not bow down to the image, so they immediately ran to tell the king.

When king Nebuchadnezzar heard the news he was very angry. He immediately ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought to him to explain their actions. The king said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you will not bow down and worship the image of gold that I have made? Just in case there was a mistake I will give you another chance. When the music plays again you will be ready and bow down to the image, and if you don't this time you will be thrown into a fiery furnace. Then what god will be able to save you?"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego looked at each other and replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we did not make a mistake nor will we apologize for not bowing down. If we are thrown into the furnace, the God we worship will save us, and he will rescue us. But even if he doesn't, we want you to know, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." That made Nebuchadnezzar even madder. Right away he ordered the furnace to be heated way hotter than it usually was. Then soldiers threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire.

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