

What God is There.....?

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego,

Background:

- *Daniel and others were taken by the Babylonians in 606 B.C. **-Daniel 1:1-2**
This was not a violent invasion where many died but simply a pressing of power that could not be resisted
- *The Babylonians did not take away the king of Israel at this time
- *The Southern kingdom does not fall to Babylon until 586 B.C.
- *This is the ultra violent fall prophesied by Jeremiah and others
- *This means they no doubt have family & friends back home
- ***These young men are leaving everything that is familiar behind**
- Including their names – **Daniel 1:6,7**
- *These men are in a foreign land not by their choice
- *These men are subject to paganism not by their choice
- *These men have only the personal religious foundation they have brought with them
- *The temple/priests are many miles away
- *The ability to sacrifice at the temple is miles away
- *ALL they have is God and each other

***And that will be enough!!!**

The key text as far as I'm concerned is 3:17-18

Dan 3:14 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?"

Dan 3:15 "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?"

Dan 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter."

Dan 3:17 "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."

Dan 3:18 "**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.**"

Dan 3:19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, 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.

NASB

Key Points:

- *The ***plot*** against them, - **Daniel 3:8, 12**
 - The “certain Chaldeans came forward & brought charges”
- ****Threat*** by King Nebuchadnezzar, - **Daniel 3:15**
 - “Be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire”
- ****Intensity*** of the Furnace, - **Daniel 3:19**
 - “to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.”
- *The ***death*** of those who get too close, - **Daniel 3:20**
 - “the flame of the fire slew those men who carried...”
- *The fact that ***no effects of the fire*** accompanied them at release etc.
 - **Daniel 3:27**
 - “fire had no effect on the body,”
 - “nor was the hair of their head singed,”
 - “nor were their trousers damaged”
 - “nor had the smell of fire even come upon them.”
- *Press the fact that ***they stood tall*** under duress – **Daniel 3:25**
 - “I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire with out harm,”
 - ***Come what may*** they were faithful – **Daniel 3:18**
 - “That we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image...”

Is this just a good story?

- * ***This is not a story!***
 - *This is an account as all the Bible is an inspired
 - *An account provided by none other than God Himself via inspiration of the Spirit
 - *Thus it is a **real** account of **real** people and **real** events (not fiction)
- *Thus ***the point*** is;
 - *They did it! (they remained faithful)

SO CAN WE!

How are we (and the church) like Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego

*They were Gods Chosen people

**We are Gods Chosen people.*

*They were in a foreign Land

**We are Aliens and strangers in this world*

*They had to leave everything familiar behind

**We are to leave the world behind and walk anew*

*They only have God & each other

**We have God & each other*

1Pe 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1Pe 2:10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

1Pe 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as **aliens and strangers** to abstain from **fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.**

1Pe 2:12 **Keep your behavior excellent** among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.

NASB

*This can be said of ***the church anywhere in the world*** precisely because we are in the world - **Romans 12:1-2**

We have God

We have the brethren / spiritual family

We have physical family

We live free in the USA to do as we want in terms of religion

We do not have anyone forcing falsehood on us

We don't have a king telling us what to worship but;

What do we deal with that threatens us today?

Are we prepared to stand with God at all times!

Rom 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Rom 8:33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

Rom 8:34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Rom 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Rom 8:36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

Rom 8:37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

Rom 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

Rom 8:39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

NASB

Conclusion

*Bottom line call to faith - *Live or die faith*

*That is what we all must commit too EVERYDAY

We let absolutely nothing stand between us and our God