

GLEANINGS FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

DANIEL CHAPTER 3:19-30

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. 20 And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace. 21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. 22 Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. 24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." 25 "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." 26 Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. 27 And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them. 28 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! 29 Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this." 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

- 1) Nebuchadnezzar wanted the people to worship the image he had built, but ultimately what or who did the king want the people to worship?

- 2) What does your answer to the question above tell you about the king's perception of himself and others?

3) How does your answer to question #1 help you to understand the reason the king was so angry with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego for refusing to worship the image?

4) The Hebrews were bound, carried and thrown into the furnace, yet they walked out! How did that happen, and how does this confirm that their escape was a miracle?

5) Who do you think the fourth person in the furnace was, and why do you think that?

6) Based on what the text tells us do you think Nebuchadnezzar became a believer in God at this point? Why or why not?

7) How did God use this event in the Babylonian Kingdom and in the lives of the Jews?

8) What lesson(s) does God want you to take away from the experience of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego?
