

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

In Daniel Chapter 3, we read of three young Hebrew men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who served under the King of Babylon as officials. They refused to obey the law that had been issued by Nebuchadnezzar to worship an image of gold.



Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. (Daniel 3:28)

That at what time you hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, you fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up. And whoso falls not down, and worship shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace (Daniel 3:5-6).

Nebuchadnezzar had commanded that all people were to bow down and worship the image when hearing the sound of music. Those who disobeyed would be thrown into the blazing fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego took a stand against the king by refusing to bow to the idol. Instead they decided to trust God, even without a guarantee of being spared or delivered from the flames, as they had no assurance of surviving.

If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image which you have set up. (Daniel 3:16-18)

The King was furious, things became even more intense (Daniel 3:19). The King commanded the temperature of the furnace to be turned up seven times hotter than usual. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were tied up before being thrown into the furnace. Nebuchadnezzar saw there was a fourth person in the fire with them, all four of them were walking around in the fire. He was amazed the fire had not consumed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

"But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods." (Daniel 3:25)

King Nebuchadnezzar called the three men out from the furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out unharmed, not even a hair on their heads was singed or the smell of smoke on their clothing. Their bonds had been broken free (Daniel 3:21). Nebuchadnezzar knew that the favour and protection of God was upon them. The King promoted them and decreed that the God of the Hebrews should be worshipped.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. (Isaiah 43:2)

In the Mist of Trials and Tribulations

Even when we are faithful and obedient, God still allows trials and difficulties to build our character, strengthen our faith or to fulfil another purpose. Although this may not make any sense at the time, we have to trust God, which is not easy. God does not guarantee we will never suffer persecution or death, but He promises to be with us always. God doesn't always deliver us from a trial, but He is with us during the trials. As Christians we are not immune from trials and difficulties, as they are part of our spiritual journey. Backlash, persecution and being distinguished from others is part of the Christian life.

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. name. (1 Peter 4:12-13)

Those of us who are currently facing adversity can draw inspiration from Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. If you have made a stand for God and the opposition has become more intense, the fire is a test! God may not spare you from the fire, but He will bring you through it. The world can be a difficult place with its pressures to conform to its ways of living. These three young Hebrew men faced the fire together. When facing difficult times, it's important we draw strength and encouragement from other Christians. Whether it is taking a stand for God by refusing to compromise, a sickness or financial problems, be assured God is in the fire with you and will bring you through it. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were put in a difficult situation where a law had been issued for everyone to worship the statue of gold, those who refused would face the death penalty. They were not willing to worship anything other than the one true God and they were arrested for doing the right thing, according to God's commands. The three young men were in a helpless situation, they were powerless in the fire. This gives us the reassurance of God's deliverance. God reveals himself in the fire.

The Bible instructs we are to obey the law and submit to authorities. The only time we do not obey the law is when it goes against God's laws. Peter and the apostles were arrested for refusing to stop preaching in Acts 5:29 but yet still continued to preach.