



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### Daniel and His Friends!

**Lesson Text:** Daniel 1; 3; 6

**Focus Verse:** Daniel 1:8 - But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

**Truth About Covenant:** God will stand with us as we stand for Him.

**Covenant Context:** While in Babylon, four of the young Hebrew exiles were tested to see if they would remain true to their covenant with God. Daniel and his three friends stood up for their faith and God stood with them. Through His faithfulness and power, God showed His people and the rest of the world that He alone is God.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had established the greatest empire in the world through a mix of shrewd diplomacy and military conquest. For those who surrendered, like King Jehoiakim in the time of Daniel and his friends, Nebuchadnezzar employed a more political agenda to assimilate them into Babylonian culture. His plan was to bring some of the best and brightest young nobles into his palace, change their names, feed them from his own table, and turn them into loyal little Babylonians who would help him administer his empire.

Daniel (Daniel 1:8) and his three friends made a decision to resist the king's meat. They stood together and the course of their lives was changed forever. They drew their line, ready to face consequences to not conform. From that moment, their four lives and destinies were irreversibly entwined. They passed their first test, but it was not their final test.

At the sound of the orchestra's music, everyone from the least to the greatest was to bow down and worship the king's image. Anyone who refused to bow would be bound and cast alive into the burning furnace. Those who were jealous of these three Hebrews' position in the kingdom had them dragged in front of the king by armed guards, but their resolve never wavered (Daniel 3:17-18). Nebuchadnezzar ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter, but God met them there.

Daniel did not escape the pressure. A regime changed and King Darius came into power in Babylon. Jealousy once again took aim at the Hebrews who had become promoted in the empire. Daniel followed his friends' example and refused to compromise and worship the king; he was willing to trust in God. They threw him in the den of lions like He met Daniel three friends in the furnace He did for Daniel. He saved Daniel's life and proved to Darius and the entire Persian kingdom that there is no God but Jehovah.

We may never know how much our decisions impact the lives of those around us, and it is not all one directional. Daniel and his friends inspired and strengthened one another when their faith was tested; let's do the same for each other. God is still looking for people who are unashamed to stand up and be identified as Jesus followers. Those content to blend in and be assimilated will not be able to fulfill their Kingdom purpose. But we must make our decisions based on the will of God we learn in the Word of God. Then we will find out what Daniel and his three friends found out: **God will stand with those who stand for Him.**

When you pray, God is able to heal you. But if not, will you still serve Him despite the pain or sickness in your body? when you give your problem to Him, God is able to solve it today. but if not, will you still trust He will turn it around in His time? if you give, God may well bless you in return monetarily. But if not, will you keep on giving, knowing that not all blessings are financial?

If you witness, maybe others will believe right away. But if not, will you keep on being a witness, an example, a light, and a prayer warrior for their souls? If you put your life on the line, God may save you. But if not, are you willing to even die for Him if that is what it takes? **May we live with that resolve in our hearts and resolution in our mouths: Our God will . . . but even if He doesn't, we will still not bow.**