

HOPEcommunity.

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Daniel – Part 3 – There's Help in the Fire **Sunday, June 12th, 2016**

Daniel 3 NIV

The Image of Gold and the Blazing Furnace

3 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide,^[a] and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ² He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. ³ So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

⁴ Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: ⁵ As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, ***you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.*** ⁶ Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

⁷ Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸ At this time some astrologers^[b] came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "May the king live forever! ¹⁰ Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, ¹¹ and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. ¹² ***But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.***"

¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴ and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. ***Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?***"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "***King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us^[c] from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.***"

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ ***and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.***

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

²⁵ He said, "Look! ***I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.***"

²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "***Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants!*** They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ ***Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say***

anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."

³⁰ Then **the king promoted** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar's worry...

- Nebuchadnezzar may have been arrogant, but he was also worried about potential overthrow. A huge statue of himself for people to worship was a way that he could show strength and put fear in any of his dissenters.
- When a king conquered another country, the new subjects were expected to worship the gods of the ruling country.

Living a Life with Resolve...

- These young men had resolved in their heart to obey God over and above everything else. Because they had committed that mindset and lifestyle, there was no question about where they would put their allegiance when tested (vs. 12 & 16)
- As Christians, we belong to Christ. God is our creator, father, friend, boss and owner (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- Resolving ahead of time helps us defeat temptation before it comes our way.
- It will also help us take action and make a difference. Gets us away from wasting our life.
 - <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Xbox+commercial+with+the+baby&&view=detail&mid=19F80ED75948C2676BDE19F80ED75948C2676BDE&FORM=VRDGAR>

Allowing yourself to be thrown into the Fire

- God has placed you where you are for a reason.
 - Something to learn
 - Something to fight for
 - Something/one to care for & develop
- When you're in the fire, you're never alone (3:25 & Matthew 28:20)

Leaving the Results to God

- *"...But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."*

Salvation Prayer (to ask God to forgive your sins and adopt you as His child):

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for taking my place by dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Saviour and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sin and giving me eternal life. I ask that You lead, teach and fill me with the Holy Spirit. Change me into a person who represents you well, in Jesus name, amen."

Giving \$ to God at Hope CCC: Tithes/Offerings/Donations

1. **Giving Envelopes** (located on the chairs) are to be placed in one of the two **collection boxes on the wall**.
 - A year's box of giving/tithing envelopes are available from our Envelope Secretary Dr. Paul Corriveau.
2. **Monthly Withdrawal - Pre Authorized Remittance**. Registration forms beside the collection boxes.
3. **Online Giving** can be done on our website through Canada Helps.
4. **Text-2-Give** using your phone by texting **705-910-0962**. You can use Visa-Debit or credit card.
5. Cheques can be **Mailed** to the church.

Announcements: www.hopecommunitysite.com 705-812-2833

Small Group Bible Studies: Contact **Craig Basaraba** for current groups or to start a group... 705-323-2628 & basarabac@yahoo.ca

Morning Prayer Monday to Friday 9 to 10 am at the church

Woman's Walking/Exercise Group – Mondays 7:00 pm at the church

Kid's Tuesday Afterschool Program – 3:30 to 5:00 pm - gym games, snack, encouragement & friendship

Mom's Hangout – Wednesdays 10-11:30 am... A time for Moms and kid's to hang out and get to know each other.

Upward Soccer (Ages SK to Grade 6) Practice – Wednesdays 6-8 pm

God Squad Jr. High: Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Students grades 6-8 are invited to this great program.

Sr. High Youth: Thursdays: 7:30 to 8:45 pm. Students grades 9-12

Upward Soccer (Ages SK to Grade 6) Game – Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30 am

Good Food Box – Orders on the first Monday of each month from 3-6 pm and pick up on the third Wednesday of each month from 3-6 pm. Fresh Fruit and Vegetables... Small box \$10, Large box \$15

Communion Lunch Service – **First Sunday of each month** Service (10:00 am) of each month as part of the morning service. Invite a friend and bring food to share in this pot luck style meal.

Summer Intercession & Prayer Meeting – **Tuesday, June 28th -7 pm**

- 24 hour fast starting Monday at 8:00 pm and ending Tuesday after the gathered prayer meeting
- People can sign up for one hour prayer intervals starting at 8 pm on Monday Night.
- Prayer for families, the church, and opportunities for God to use us in evangelism, discipleship & missions

Summer Bible Study – **Wednesday Nights, 7 pm starting July 6th**