

The security of placing our complete trust in God *(Daniel Chapter Three)*

When we look at the lives of three young Jewish men in the book of Daniel, (Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego) we can learn a lot about the importance of trusting God at all times and in all circumstances



- We have a God who loves us greatly and who knows what is best for us at all times
- Having a childlike trust in God is a great key to having great stability in our life, especially given the times that we are now living in (2 Timothy 3:1-5) (Matthew 24:4-13)
- Having complete trust in God's faithfulness is a key to realising our full potential in Christ



I will begin by looking at some portions of Scripture in Daniel Chapter Three;

“Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counsellors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.” **(Daniel 3:1-2)**



“So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counsellors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.” **(Daniel 3:3)**



“Then a herald cried ^[b]aloud: “To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, *that* at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, *and* psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.” **(Daniel 3:4-6)**



“So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, *and* lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down *and* worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.” **(Daniel 3:7)**



“Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews.” **(Daniel 3:8)**



“There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.” **(Daniel 3:12)**

“Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, *“Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?”* **(Daniel 3:13-14)**



“Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, *and* psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, *good!* But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who *is* the god who will deliver you from my hands?” **(Daniel 3:15)**



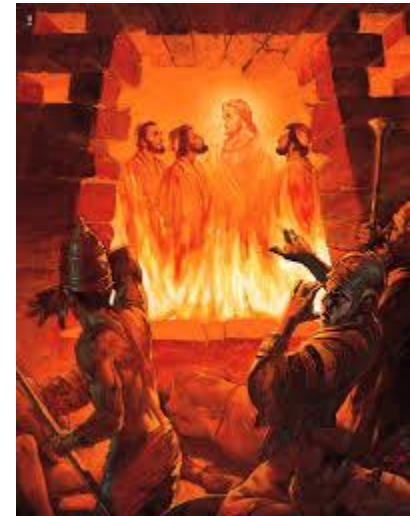
“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that *is the case*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”
(Daniel 3:16-18)



“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.”
(Daniel 3:19)



“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.” **(Daniel 3:20)**



“Therefore, because the king’s command was [c]urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.” **(Daniel 3:22-23)**

“Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste *and* spoke, saying to his ^[d]counsellors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.”

“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^[e] Son of God.”

(Daniel 3:24-25)



“Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the [f]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. And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king’s counsellors 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.” **(Daniel 3:26-27)**



“Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel^[g] and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, ... ” **(Daniel 3:28)**

“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.” **(Daniel 3:29)**



“Then the king ^[h]promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.” **(Daniel 3:30)**



PROMOTION

FROM TODAY'S OPENING PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE WE CAN LEARN MUCH:

1) We must simply choose to trust God at all times and in all circumstances

- We can depend on God's faithfulness to help us to fulfil His plan and destiny for our life
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego simply trusted in God's ability to deliver them from their fiery trial
- We serve a God who can do the impossible



- **Jesus encouraged us to put our entire trust in God alone and not to be moved by our circumstances but to keep our focus on Him**

Jesus Himself said,

“Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”

“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” **(Mark 11:22-24)**



- **God is both willing and able to help us in time of need**



- Nothing can happen to us apart from the will of God for our life. God truly is sovereign in the affairs of this world
- **We can depend on God's faithfulness when we cry out to Him for help in time of trouble**
- There is no better place than being in the centre of God's will for our life
- **We need to simply trust God in every area of our life and allow Him to lead at all times**



In the book of Jeremiah we read,
“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.” **(Jeremiah 17:7-8)**



The Psalmist wrote,

**“God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, ...”**

(Psalm 46:1-2)



- **Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego simply trusted in God's ability to deliver them from the fiery trial that they were facing**
- **God did not let them down. Nor will He let us down when we fully trust Him with our life**

2) We must not allow fear and opposition from others to cause us to compromise in our walk with the Lord



- We must continually choose to be God pleasers rather than man pleasers
- **Only God will be absolutely faithful at all times. For this reason we must always seek to please Him above all others**
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego refused to fall down and worship the gold image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up when threatened by him



- We must never allow a fear of man to drive us away from our God given assignment in life.
- If we stand up for God He will stand up for us

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The fear of man brings a snare,

But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.”

(Proverbs 29:25)



Jesus Himself said,

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in ^[a]hell.”
(Matthew 10:28)

- We must always be more concerned about honouring God with our lives than pleasing others.
- God always has our best interests at heart. He is always both willing and able to help us in time of need



- When Jesus Christ is truly Lord of all of our life we can be assured that nothing can happen to us apart from God's will for our life



Jesus Himself said, “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will.” (Matthew 10:29)

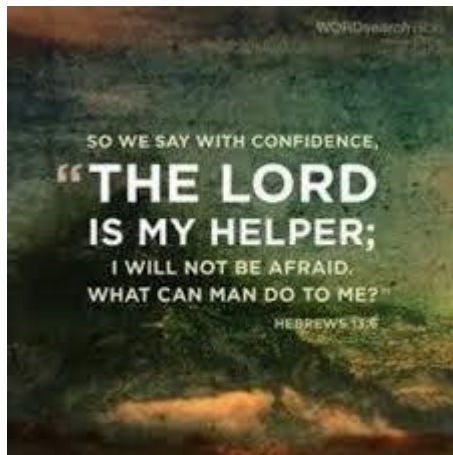
“Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” (Matthew 10:31)



- We must refuse to allow fear or peer group pressure to cause us to compromise in our walk with the Lord
- God always knows what is best for us at all times
- We will never come second putting God first
- We can depend on God's faithfulness at all times



**In the book of Hebrews we read,
“...For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave
you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say:
“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can
man do to me?” (Hebrew 13:5-6)**



3) God promises to be with us at all times (He is our refuge and strength)



Jesus Himself said,

“... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen” (Matthew 28:20)

- As Christians we can be assured that God will always be with us during our trials and challenges. The Holy Spirit will be our constant comforter and helper during our trials here on earth. God’s strength is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9)

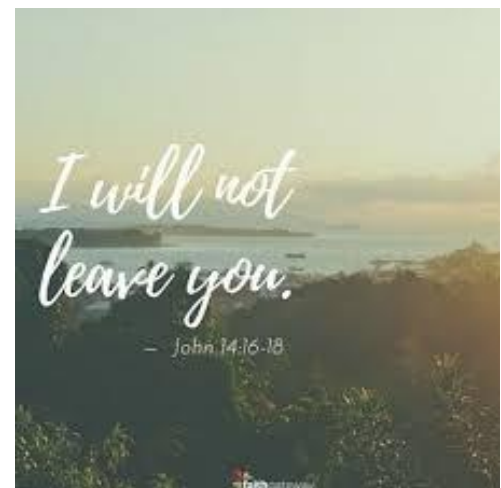
- Just as the Lord was with Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego (in a pre-incarnate appearance to them) to protect them in the burning fiery furnace, so too He promises to be with us and to help us during our trials and struggles here on earth



Jesus Himself said,

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another ^[a]Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

(John 14:16-18)



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.”

(2 Corinthians 1:3-5)



4) God is ABLE to keep us safe and deliver us from the tests and trials that we will all go through in life. Nothing is impossible with God

- Though Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego were thrown into a burning fiery furnace the fire had no power to hurt them due to God's protection over their lives. Even "... the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them." **(Daniel 3:27)**



In Psalm 91 we read,

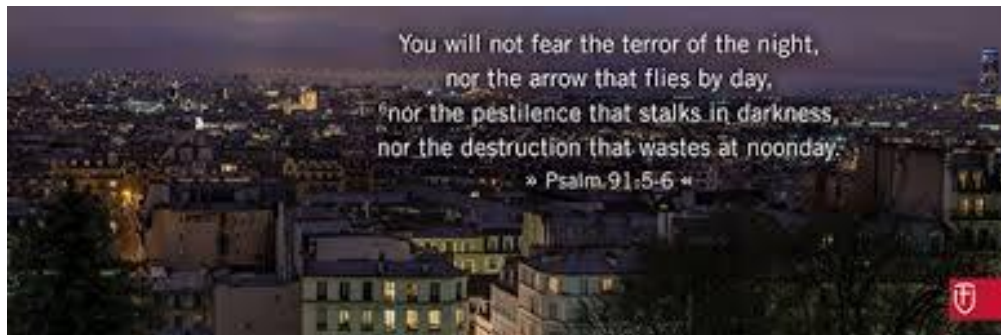
“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD,

“He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.” Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the [\[a\]](#)fowler *And* from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth *shall be your* shield and [\[b\]](#)buckler.”
(Psalm 91:1-4)



“You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow *that* flies by day,
Nor of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction *that* lays waste at
noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you.” **(Psalm 91:5-7)**



- The bible is full of scriptures that give us an assurance of God's ability to help us and to protect us when we trust Him and follow His plan for our life.

King David wrote,



“But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in the time of trouble. And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, And save them, Because they trust in Him.” (Psalm 37:39-40)

5) As we remain faithful to God and His plan for our life we will see God promoting us in due time

- As a result of the faithfulness of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego in standing up for their faith they were promoted by King Nebuchadnezzar in the province of Babylon
- As we remain loyal to God He will invariably promote us to positions of influence so that we can make an eternal difference in the lives of many others
- **Promotion always comes from above**



- In the Old Testament we see in the life of Joseph his willingness to suffer for doing the right thing to honour God with his life
- Joseph fled the advances of Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:7-12) and was then wrongly accused and falsely imprisoned for many years for *doing the right thing* (Genesis 39:19-20)
- But at the appointed time God raised Joseph up to a place of great influence in which he was able to help feed the Children of Israel during a seven year famine which was over all the face of the earth



- We see this in the book of Genesis after Joseph had given the Pharaoh of Egypt good advice after being released from prison

“So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find *such a one* as this, a man in whom *is* the Spirit of God?”
(Genesis 41:37-38)



“Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, *there is* no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.” And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” **(Genesis 41:39-41)**



AND

6) It is our steadfast faith and trust in the Lord that will greatly influence others to come to faith in Christ

It was the steadfast faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego in the time of great testing that caused King Nebuchanezzar to say,

“Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel^[g] and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, ... ” **(Daniel 3:28)**

“... because there is no other God who can deliver like this.” **(Daniel 3:29)**



- So too it will be our steadfast faith in Christ and passion for the things of God that will cause us to help lead many others to Christ in the days to come

Jesus Himself said,

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:16)**”



In the book of Acts we read,

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”

(Acts 4:13)



SO IN CONCLUSION

- May I encourage you to build your life on an unwavering commitment to just doing what Jesus tells you to do.
- It is in doing this that all that God has planned for your life will come to pass
- As you commit to trusting God in every area of your life and at all times, your life will make a great difference in this world for eternity



I will finish with two passages of Scripture;

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

AND



In Psalm 37 King David, who was Israel's greatest king wrote,

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:3-5)

