

WHEN THE HEAT IS ON UNSHAKABLE! - Part 5

Daniel 3:1-5 “King Nebuchadnezzar made a giant gold image of himself ninety feet tall and nine feet wide and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. Then he gives this order to all of his officials – to the princes and the prefects and the governors and the advisors and the treasurers and the judges and the magistrates and other officials to come to the official dedication of this statue that he had set up. When they had all assembled, an announcer shouted out ‘People of all races and nations and languages, this is the king’s command: Anytime you hear the royal orchestra start playing music you are all to immediately drop everything, fall to your knees, and bow and worship the image of King Nebuchadnezzar. Anyone who does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a giant blazing furnace.’ As soon as they heard the music, everybody bowed down before the statue and worshiped the image of King Nebuchadnezzar.”

DANIEL 3: SIMILARITIES TO US TODAY

1. The world creates _____.
2. I am tempted to create _____.
3. If I reject the world’s images and idols, _____.

Daniel 3:8-12 “But some Babylonian officials used this opportunity to denounce the Jews. They told the king ‘Oh great king, we hope you live forever...the Jewish officials that you put in charge of the province of Babylon – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego – they have defied your decree. They have refused to serve your gods and they have refused to bow down and worship your image that you set up.’”

4. Doing the right thing _____.

Daniel 3:13-15 “Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and he ordered that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be brought to him. The king asked them ‘Is it true that the three of you refused to serve my gods

or worship the gold statue that I set up? I'll give you one more chance. If you bow down and you worship the statue all will be well. But, if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what God will be able to rescue you from my power?"

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN THE HEAT IS ON?

1. Don't worry about _____.

Daniel 3:16 "Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we don't need to defend ourselves in this matter'"

2. Remember that God _____.

Daniel 3:17a "IF we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we worship is ABLE to save us."

3. Believe God will _____.

Daniel 3:17b "And HE WILL save us from your power, O king."

Isaiah 43:2-3a (NLT) "WHEN you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. WHEN you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! WHEN you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you! For I am the Lord, your God!" That's a promise from God.

4. I announce my loyalty to God _____.

Daniel 3:18 "BUT EVEN IF God DOESN'T save us, we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up."

HOW GOD RESCUES US FROM A CRISIS

1. Sometimes God saves us _____.

2. Sometimes God saves us _____.

3. Sometimes God saves us _____.

1 Peter 1:6-7 “It may be necessary for you to be sad for a while because of the many trials you suffer. Their purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire; so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested, so that it may endure. Then you will receive praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

Daniel 3:19 “Nebuchadnezzar became so furious that his face was distorted with rage and he commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual.”

Daniel 3:20-23 “Then the king ordered some of his strongest soldiers to bind their hands and feet with ropes and throw them into the blazing furnace. So they tied them up and they threw them into the furnace, fully clothed. But because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire, the flames leapt out and killed the soldiers as they threw the three men in! Securely tied up, they fell down into the blazing flames of the furnace.”

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I TRUST GOD IN THE FURNACE?

1. God will _____.

Daniel 3:24-25 “But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and asked his advisers, ‘Didn’t we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?’ ‘Yes, we did.’ they said, ‘Well look now!’ he shouted. ‘You can see four men now, unbound, walking around freely in the fire, unharmed!’ And the fourth man looks like a son of the gods!”

2. God will _____.

Isaiah 48:10 (NLT) “I have refined you but not in the way silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering.”

3. God will _____.

Psalm 66:12 (NAB) “You let captors set foot on our neck; then we went through fire and water and you led us out to freedom.”

4. God will _____.

Daniel 3:26-27 “Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: ‘Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come out at once!’ So the 3 men stepped out of the fire. Then the princes, prefects, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn’t even smell of smoke!”

5. God will _____.

Daniel 3:28 “Then the king said, “Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who sent his angel to rescue his servants. THEY TRUSTED IN HIM. They defied my command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.”

Daniel 3:29-30 ““Therefore, I make this decree: If anyone says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be put to death, and their houses will be destroyed. There is no other god who can save anyone like this!’ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.”

6. God will _____.

1 Corinthians 3:10b-15 “Each of us must be careful how we build (our lives), because Christ is the only solid foundation. Whatever we build on that foundation will be tested by fire . . . If what we built is left standing, we will be rewarded! But if what we’ve built is burned up by the fire, we will lose our reward. Yet we will be saved, like someone escaping from flames.”