

# "faith Co Endure Che fire" BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

## Dark Days For Judah ....

- In 605 B.C., Judah, as God had stated through Jeremiah, had found itself under Babylonian control.
- The first wave of captives are carried away to Babylon including Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.
- 603 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the Great Image (Daniel 2:1; cf. 1:1, 5)
- The Septuagint adds the events in 3:1 occurred in Nebuchadnezzar's 18th year (587), one year before the fall of Jerusalem (cf. 2 Kings 25:8).





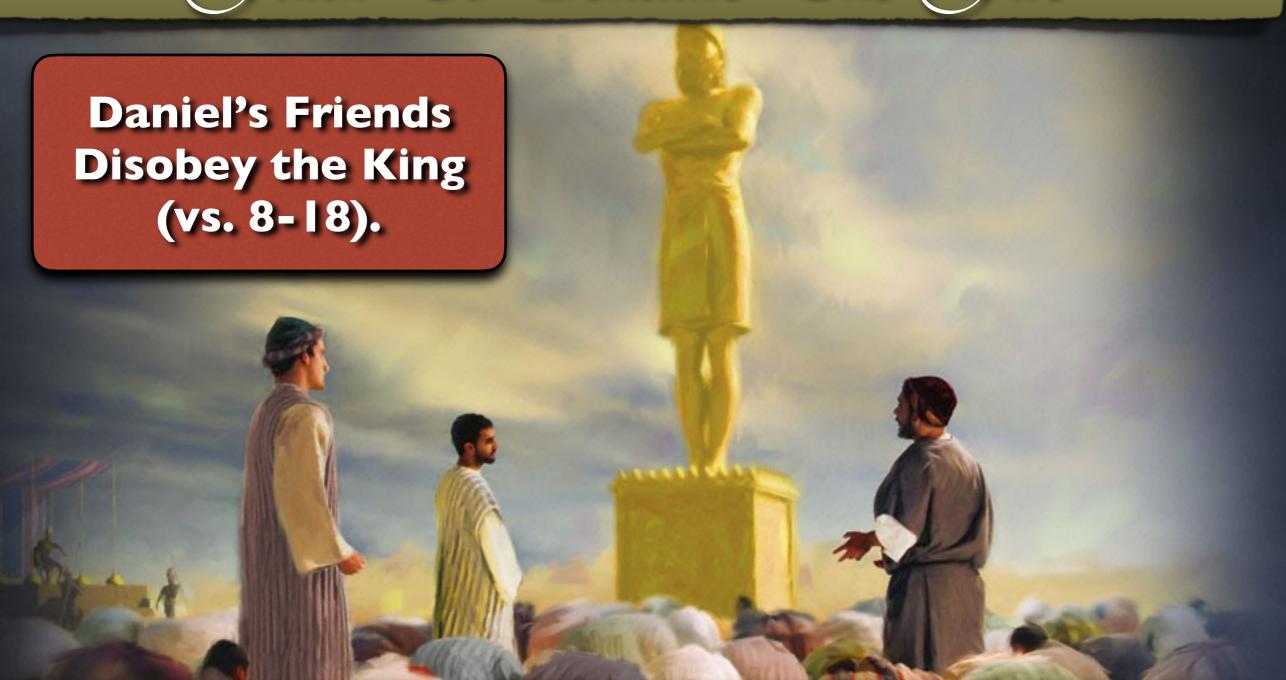
**Daniel 3:1 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height *was* sixty cubits *and* its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

#### Daniel 3:2-7 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, 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. 3 So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, 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 3:2-7 (NKJV)

4 Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 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; <sup>6</sup> and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." 7 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 3:12 (NKJV)** <sup>12</sup> 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 3:8-18 (NKJV)

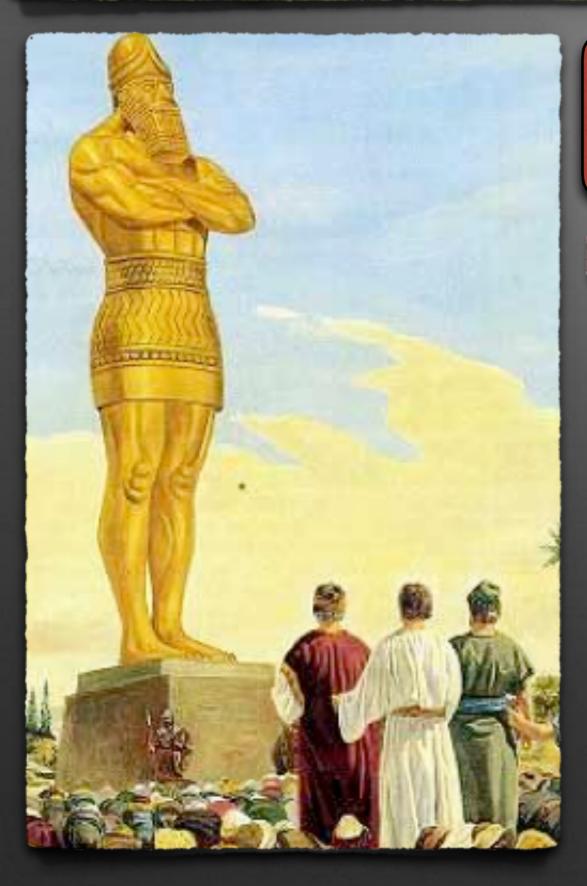
<sup>8</sup> Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews. 9 They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! 10 You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image; II and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. 12 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.

#### Daniel 3:8-18 (NKJV)

They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up." 13 Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. 14 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? 15 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,

#### Daniel 3:8-18 (NKJV)

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?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> 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. 18 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's Friends Disobey the King (vs. 8-18).

- Demonstrated Faith ...
  - → In The Power Of God Dan 3:16-17
  - → In The Will Of God Dan 3:18
  - ◆They were determined to serve God REGARDLESS — Dan 3:16-18; cf. 1:8



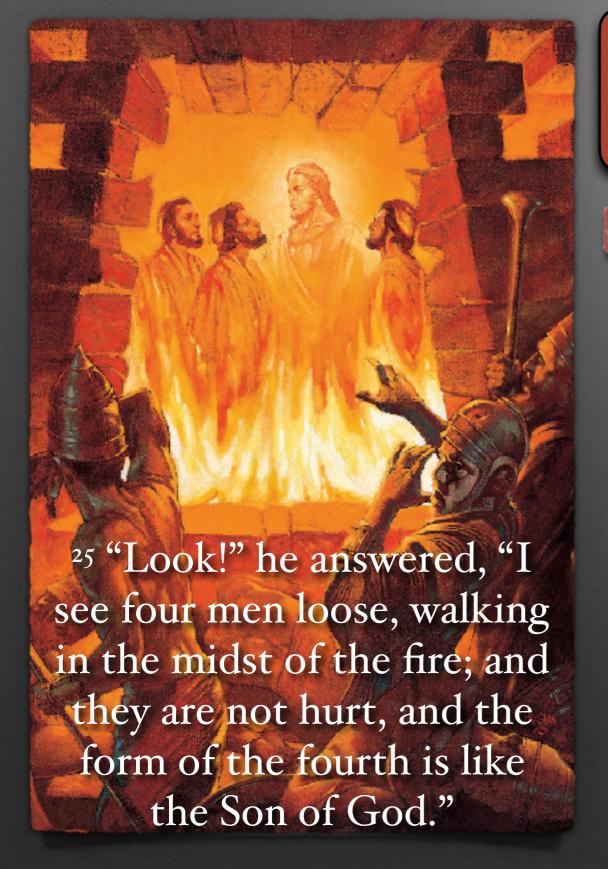
<sup>21</sup> Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their *other* garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. — **Daniel 3:21 (NKJV)** 

#### Daniel 3:19-25 (NKJV)

19 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. 20 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. 21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

#### Daniel 3:19-25 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. 24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." 25 "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 Son of God."



## Daniel's Friends Saved in Fiery Trial (vs. 19-25).

- Four In The Furnace ...
  - ♦ Nebuchadnezzar wanted to display publicly the cost of rebelling against his authority.
  - → The doom of Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah appeared to be certain ...
  - ♦ They were thrown into the furnace BUT ...

#### Daniel 3:26-30 (NKJV)

<sup>26</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the 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. 27 And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors 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 3:26-30 (NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! 29 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." 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:28 (NKJV) <sup>28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!

#### Nebuchadnezzar Praises God (vs. 26-30).

- The Faith of 3 produced faith in OTHERS ...
  - → Our faith in the midst of trials has great influence on others Dan 3:28-29
  - → What if we compromise just this once?
  - ♦ What if we respond to trials with arrogance and bitterness?

Daniel 3:28 (NKJV) <sup>28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!

#### Nebuchadnezzar Praises God (vs. 26-30).

- The REWARD of a Faith that endures ...
  - → RESPECT & admiration God is glorified! vs 28,29
  - → Man's ways are seen as inferior 28;
  - → Promoted to even higher positions! Dan 3:30
  - ♦ What about us?! Mat 5:11,12

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah . . . Four young men pressured to compromise their faith but refused to do so! - Dan 1; 3; 6







We too live are pressured to "compromise" To tolerate evil / accept wickedness / and to participate in sin
What gave these young men their strength to defy a
king, even in the face of death?







#### Reverence For God

Daniel feared God while the one over him feared the king - 1:8-10

Refused to bow down to the kings image - 3:16-18

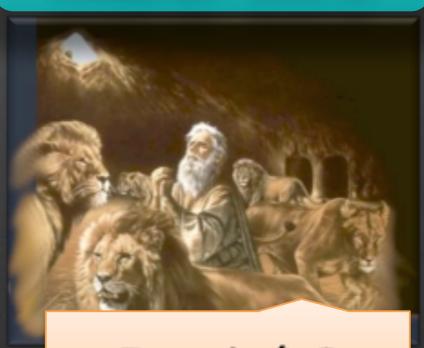
Prayed to God without fearing what men would do - 6:10-11



Daniel 1

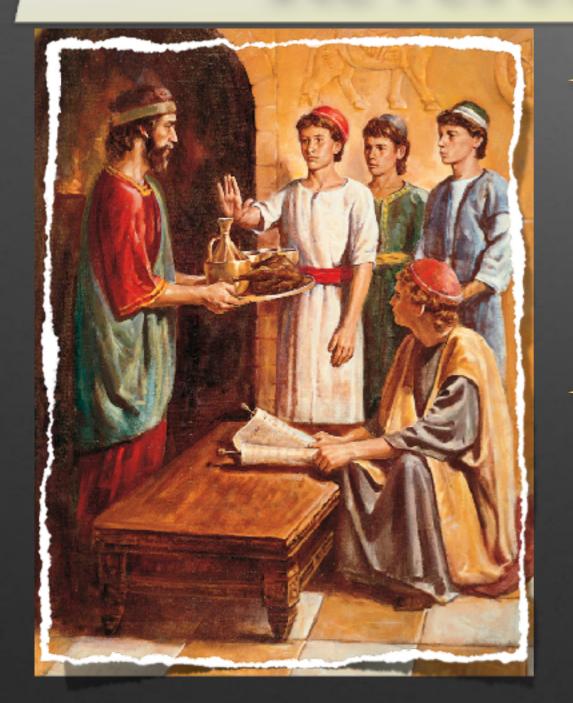


Daniel 3



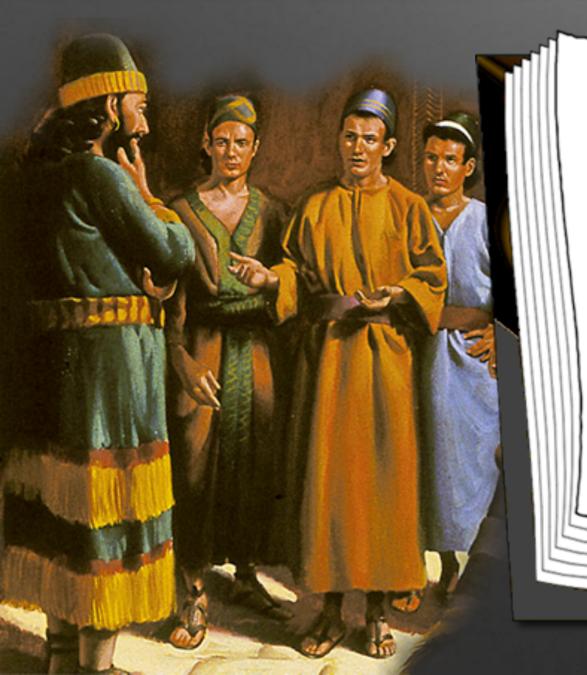
Daniel 6

#### Reverence For God



- → People who compromise with evil demonstrate that they lack a healthy fear of the Lord! (Job 28:28; Jer 32:40)
- → Standing firm against the pressures to compromise our faith requires a healthy fear of God! (Acts 5:11; Mat 10:28)

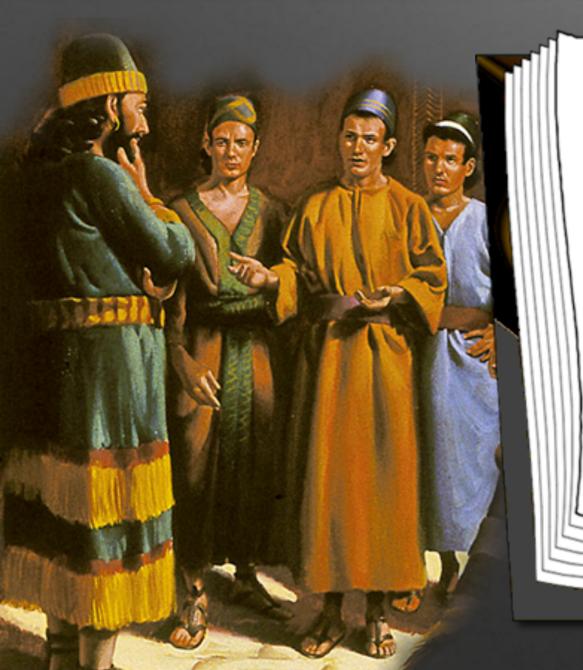
### Reverence For God



#### Proverbs 1:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup>The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

### Reverence For God



#### Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NKJV)

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

### Reverence For God



#### 1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)

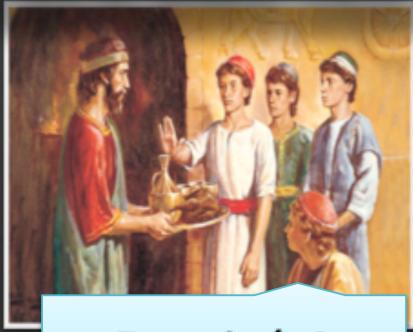
<sup>15</sup> But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear:

#### Understand The Seriousness of Sin

Willing to risk punishment that he not be defiled - 1:8,13

Willing to face a fiery furnace than worship false Gods - 3:16-18

Willing to be thrown to lions than not to pray to God - 6:10-11



Daniel 1

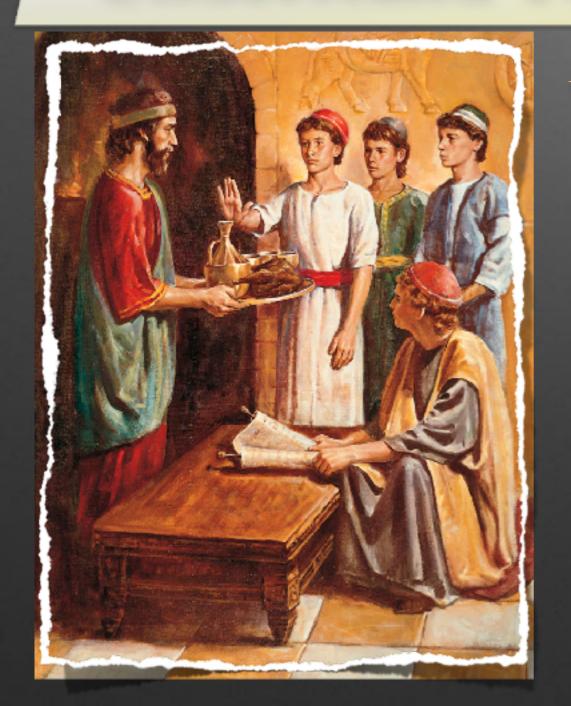


Daniel 3



Daniel 6

#### Understand The Seriousness of Sin



- No one will successfully resist temptation if they fail to understand the seriousness of sin - Mat 5:29,30
  - \*Sin is against God Ps. 51:4
  - \*Brings death Gen 3; Rom 6:23
  - \*Separates from God Is 59:1-3
  - \*Hurts & destroys others Gen 3; Jos. 7; I Cor. 5

#### Purpose / Resolve To Please God

Daniel purposed in his heart he would not defile himself - 1:8

Will NOT serve your gods, nor worship the image - 3:16-18

Daniel prayed knowingly violating the law - 6:10-11



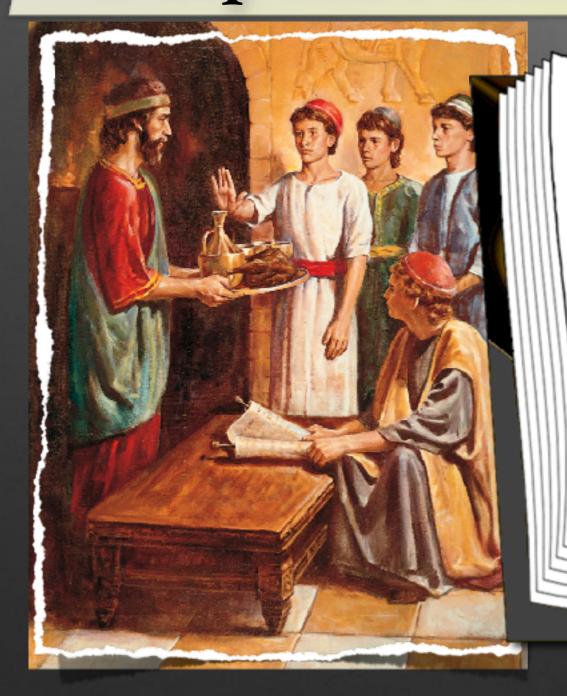
Daniel 1



Daniel 3



### Purpose / Resolve To Please God



#### Proverbs 16:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.

#### Purpose / Resolve To Please God



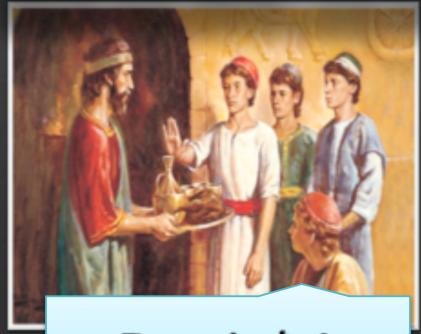
- No one will successfully resist the worlds pull without purpose & resolve Job 31:1; Ps 119:106,112, 115; Jos 24:15; Acts 11:23
  - \* The way to heaven is one of purpose & commitment no one will accidentally get there Mat 7:13,14; 2 Pet 1:5-10
  - \* God will help 1:9; 1 Cor. 10:13

#### Trust The Lord

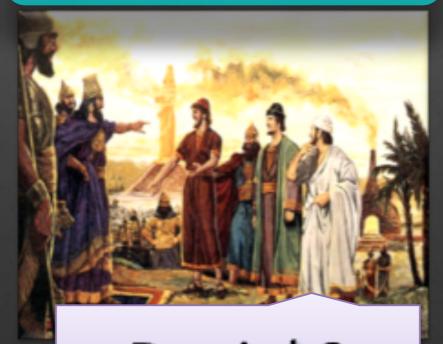
Daniel requested the one in charge over them test them - 1:11-13

God will deliver us . . . but if not . . . 3:16-18

Daniel prayed just as he had always done despite threats - 6:10-11



Daniel 1



Daniel 3



Daniel 6

#### Trust The Lord



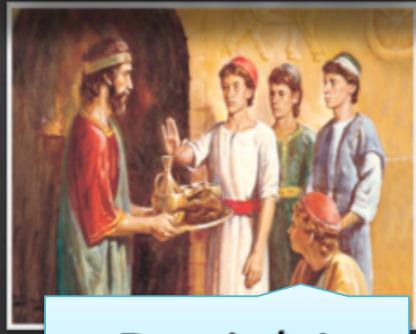
- ♦ God will do what He has said! – (Rom. 4:19-21; Acts 27:25; 2 Tim 1:12)
- ♦ We must know what God has said in order to have the faith necessary to resist compromise - (Rom 10:17; Hos 4:6; Eph 6:16)
- ↑ Those who trust the Lord will keep pure (1 John 3:3; 2 Cor 7:1; 2 Pet 3:14)

## Strengthened By Each Victory

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah refused to be defiled

Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah would bow ONLY to God

Prayed ONLY to God as was his custom since his early days!



Daniel 1

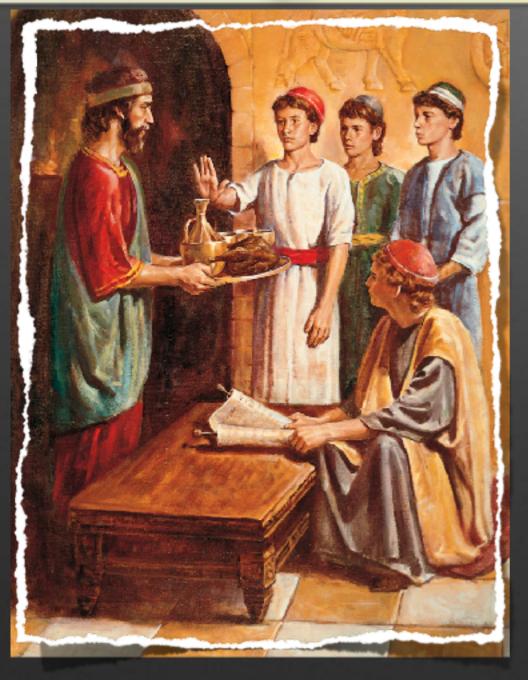


Daniel 3



Daniel 6

## Strengthened By Each Victory



- → Those who are faithful in little matters will be faithful in larger matters - (Luke 16:10,11; 19:17; Mat 25:21)
- → How can I face the big battles if I have failed to be victorious in the smaller ones? (Jer. 12:5)
- → Trials will come!! Young people need to begin now to develop a strong faith in God!

### Will We Apply The Lessons Learned?



- → What great examples of uncompromising faith!
- → We can have the courage to resist the pressures of this world and say no to sin!
- → Fear God / Hate sin / Purpose to please God / Trust God / One victory at a time / Receive the reward!

#### Will We Apply The Lessons Learned?



→ To be committed to serving God, no matter the temporal consequence?

◆ To Persevere so our faith will lead to greater things?

- To trust God's ability to deliver us in the end?
- ◆ To be obedient that others may praise God?
- ♦ We can refuse to compromise our convictions without being abrasive!

#### The Reward Is Worth It

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah blessed Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were saved and exalted

Daniel saved and exalted while the enemies destroyed



Daniel 1



Daniel 3



Daniel 6

#### The Reward Is Worth It



- → The faithful will receive the crown of life (Rev 2:10)
- → Like Paul if we fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith (2 Tim 4:6-8)
- ★ Eternal life if we patiently continue in doing good – seeking for glory, honor & immortality – (Rom 2:7)
- ♦ NO such thing as accidental salvation!! (Mat 7:13,14)

#### The Reward Is Worth It



- ▶ If you believe that Jesus is the Christ - act upon that faith today by confessing Him as the Son of God - Repent of your sins - and be baptized for the remission of your sins TODAY!
- → If you are a Christian but guilty of compromising your your faith - repent, confess & pray TODAY!



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Preached June 17, 2018 PM

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#### 1 PETER 1:3-9 (NKJV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

#### 1 PETER 1:3-9 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.