

The Dot - 1/26/21

Bible Stories and Characters: Sadrach, Meshach & Abednego

Bible Passage: Daniel 3

Interviewee: Wallace Kennedy



Overview/Summary

King Nebuchadnezzar had a huge golden image built as a symbol of his power and glory. He commanded that his people bow down and worship this image and those who disobeyed would be thrown into an immense, blazing furnace.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, worshipped only the One True God, and they refused to bow down to the false idol. They were brought before Nebuchadnezzar, but remained courageous in the face of the king.

Nebuchadnezzar was furious and ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than average. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were tied up and thrown into the flames. The fiery blast was so hot it killed the soldiers who had led them.

As King Nebuchadnezzar peered into the furnace, he was amazed at what he saw:

"Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods" (Daniel 3:25). This made quite an impression on Nebuchadnezzar.

Through God's miraculous protection of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that day, Nebuchadnezzar declared that the remaining Israelites in captivity were now protected from harm and were guaranteed freedom of worship. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego received a royal promotion.

What We Learn About Who God Is:

We can learn so much from the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego...How to be bold in our faith, how to stand up for what is right, and how to trust in God. But we also learn so much about who God is.

- God is the One True God (John 17:3, Isaiah 45:5-7, 1 Timothy 2:5-6)
- God is Powerful (Jeremiah 32:17, Psalm 147:5, Isaiah 41:10)
- God is Jealous for us (Exodus 34:14, Deuteronomy 4:24)
- God is Faithful (Hebrews 11:16, Deuteronomy 31:6, Psalm 31:3-5)

Reflection Questions:

- What do you think motivated Nebuchadnezzar to build this image of gold?
- What are some 'idols' that you find yourself worshipping aside from God? (sports, phones, clothes, video games, etc.)
- How do you think God feels when we and others worship idols? (Read Exodus 34:14)
- What impresses you most about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's response to the situation they faced? How would you react in their situation?
- As you look back over this chapter, what lessons about the risks and rewards of obedience are most significant to you personally?