

AUGUST 28, 2022

DANIEL 3:1-30 "Faithful, Courageous, And Committed Under Fire"

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

There was a demand that all fall down before the image thereby displaying their submission to the king's absolute authority. Falling down before the image was not enough, they had to worship it too. So it was religious and political in nature. The king was establishing himself as head of state and head of religion.

There was even music to make it emotional and appealing. The plan was working, everyone recognized that the king was the bees-knees in the political realm and the spiritual. Be careful who you follow, the crowd is often wrong!

The three stood their ground. Confidence in their God was all they needed. They worked for the king but served God alone. Obeying God was more important to these 3 than life was. If God did not deliver them they still would not disobey Him.

Nebuchadnezzar peered inside the furnace only to see the 3 walking around unharmed! Only their tethers were burned off! To his surprise a 4th was with them! Like a son of the gods. The king was moved by the DEVOTION of the 3 to their God. This 4th man was very likely the pre-incarnate Christ walking in the midst of the fire with them. The king was greatly moved by the DEVOTION of the 3 to their God.

This is prophetic, during the Tribulation a similar demand will come to worship the Antichrist or die. See [2 Thessalonians 2:4](#); [Revelation 13:8-15](#). Most will submit, a small number will not. How would/will you respond?

Application:

The account before us today is one of a mortal king setting himself up as king of kings and as a god to all. This story is not all that unusual today either. There are evil dictators all over the world who would love to do the same thing and are often found trying to make all of humanity comply. In the end times there will be decisions to make regarding the fear and worship of man or the fear and worship of the One and Only True God. What would you do if confronted with a life and death choice such as the 3 Hebrews? They stood strong in their faith, no matter the outcome they would not compromise. How about you in the every day choices that must be made, to be a man or woman of integrity no matter what? Not one of life or death, most likely, but perhaps one of compromise? What would it take to make you give in to peer pressure? Are you prepared to stand even if that decision would mean standing alone? Ponder the depths of your commitment to Christ. You too may one day be put to the test.