

Standing Firm

“... the God we serve is able to save us from it and He will rescue us from your hand.” Daniel 3:17

A. A Crisis

1. The golden image
“King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.” (Dan. 3:1)
2. The command of King Nebuchadnezzar
“you must fall down and worship the image of gold... Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” (Dan. 3:5)
3. The command of God
“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them...” (Exodus 20:4-5a)

B. A Choice

1. Compromise, bow down, worship the image, and live
2. Stand firm, refuse to bow down, and be killed
3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s decision
“O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” (Dan. 3:16-18)

C. A Companion

1. The heat from outside the furnace killed the soldiers
“The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.” (Dan. 3:22)
2. The extreme heat inside the furnace couldn’t kill them
“Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed...” (Dan. 3:25)
3. The fourth person, walking through the flames with them, made all the difference
“Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, ‘Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?’ They replied, ‘Certainly, O king.’ He said, ‘Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.’” (Dan. 3:24-25)

D. A Change

1. The king worshipped God
“Then Nebuchadnezzar said, ‘Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.’” (Dan. 3:28)
2. The king issued a new command
“Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.” (Dan. 3:29)
3. Humbly standing firm and trusting in the God who was present with them changed everything

I will stand firm and trust God as I face...
