

Daniel 3: Resistance without compromise as the key to faith.

For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. (1 Pet 3:17-18)

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."
(Luke 22:42)

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. (Rev 2:10)

1. Nebuchadnezzar created a massive gold statue of himself and commanded that everyone in Babylon fall down and worship it.

Daniel 3:1-7

2. Some of the astrologers used this as an opportunity to denounce the Jews (who were monotheists)—Daniel's three friends, in particular—because they would not worship the idol.

Daniel 2:13-18

3. Nebuchadnezzar threatened the men with death and gave them the opportunity to recant.

Daniel 3:13-15

4. The three men informed the king that God would rescue them. But even if he didn't, they were not going to bow to the idol.

Daniel 3:16-18

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King 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 deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. **But even if he does not**, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." (Dan 3:16-18)

5. Enraged, Nebuchadnezzar threw them into a deep furnace. Not only were the men not killed, they were not burnt at all. A fourth person was seen in the furnace with them, one who looked like “a son of the gods.”

Daniel 3:19-25

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 3:25)

6. Nebuchadnezzar withdraws his order, promotes the three men, and gives praise to their God.

Daniel 3:26-30

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)