

POW Camp

Scripture: [Daniel 2:49 and Chapter 3](#)

Verse 49: Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

Chapter 3:6 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

Verse 8:certain Chaldeans came ... and accused the Jews.

Verse 18: ..we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Verse 21: Then these men were bound in their coats,and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.



Introduction:

The famous Daniel of Daniel and the Lion's Den had three equally brave and notable friends: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They are noted for their encounter with the fiery furnace of Nebuchadnezzar after refusing to bow to the false golden god image.

Ordinary boys carried away into captivity as prisoners of war to be slaves to Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon when Jerusalem is overthrown; these young men were nothing special. However, they were able to walk in the fiery furnace. Why?

How did they manage to be War Heroes while POWs [Prisoners of War]?

Romans 12:-1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking; the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

I Chronicles 29:5 ...And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?

Joshua 24:15 ...Choose you this day whom ye will serve;...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

They were aware that God really is alive and in charge.

Fired Up!

After being captured in their home country, and then marched to Babylon, these Israelite young men were forced into slavery and service to their captors. Instead of bitterness we see them making the best of the situation. In fact, they are admired by King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel is quickly identified as an achiever, wise, and very useful in the Kingdom. He then with permission of the King places Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. They have influential offices of position within the country where they are POWs.

Above all, these young men are known for their worship of God; and of their “peculiar” ways of doing things. They don’t eat the same food that that people in Babylon eat. They don’t worship the idols and images that the Babylonians worship. They don’t look like, walk like, talk like, or act like the Babylonians.

I am sure they were told to try to “fit in” with the idol worshipping Babylonians if they wanted to have a successful new life. But God’s plans are bigger than anyone can imagine.

However the Babylonian King likes the results he gets from them: that is, Daniel interprets dreams; the other three can run the business of the city. The Hand of Daniel’s God is definitely on them and several times in his lifetime we see Nebuchadnezzar acknowledge that Daniel’s God is indeed powerful.

God wants every Christian to serve Him in order that others may hear the gospel and be saved.

John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.

While Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are minding their own business, working in Babylon, still as POWs, Nebuchadnezzar decides to make a bigger better golden image for the country to worship. He is recorded both in the Bible and in ancient history as a builder, continuously improving, changing, and altering buildings and structures. So it is not unusual that he decides to build a bigger better idol for the ungodly religious crowd that he caters to. They enjoy the fellowship, parties, social atmosphere, community action groups, but are all putting effort into false gods and idols.

But again, it is the socially acceptable thing to do in Babylon so peer pressure begins to mount on the Hebrew boys to be part of the dedication ceremony, and worship service of the newest bigger better phony god.

We don’t see them out protesting in the streets against the golden god dedication; we don’t see them passing out flyers condemning the culture of Babylon. What we do see are three Hebrew young men, just going about their business and not attending the “bow-down and worship” gathering on the plaza.

They are simply quietly taking a stand for God by not participating in activities that are contrary to the Word of God.

But when you are “fired up” for God, the enemy of God begins to work against you.

Fired On!

At the dedication service for golden god the Bible says:

Daniel 3:8 Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

When a Christian is sitting on the sidelines and not showing any potential for service for God, the enemy isn’t really interested in him. A soldier that is not in the fight is not as likely to be fired on.

The trouble with sitting on the sidelines for God is that you miss all the blessings that are waiting for those that serve.

When you serve God the enemies of God notice and will do everything in their power to undermine you. Some of the time the trouble doesn’t come from the outside; it comes from the “religious” crowd as was the case here. Even today the “infiltrators” are pretending to be born-again/saved folks.

But remember, when you look at the chest of a decorated soldier, underneath those badges and medals are scars from battle.

Fire Proof!

When confronted with the lack of compliance to bow down to the golden god; the Hebrew War Heroes simply state they will not serve the gods of Babylon. As a result, they are promptly thrown into the fiery furnace, which is so hot that the guards that threw them into the fire died.

But God was not done yet. Indeed, when accused by the enemy or by pretenders be ready for God to step in.

If you have taken a stand against worldliness, against sin, against compromise, even quietly, be ready for attack. But also be ready to be Fire Proof. God has your back.

Verse 24-25: then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Verse 30: Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Conclusion:

Stand up for Jesus when friends are talking dirty. Stand up for Jesus when they are talking about unseemly movies or TV shows. Be willing to walk away.

When led by the Lord to do so, tell people that you are saved/born-again and ask them if they are! If you live like these three Hebrews, you won't have to tell others that you are saved: They will notice. When they have a crisis they will come to you to find out why you are "Fire Proof!"

Be like the three Hebrew War Heroes: in spite of being POWs they were winning battles!!

(Present salvation here.)