

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4 Year Olds

Sunday Morning

Study 4

D is for Deliverer

D is for Deliverer

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word

Objective In the same way that God delivered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fiery furnace, God can deliver us from our sins.

Key Verses Daniel 3—Main Teaching passage
1 Thessalonians 1:9-10
Exodus 6:6
Col 1:13
Gal 1:3-4

Memory Verse Matthew 19:26 (January Memory Verse)

"And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Hook

Place a treat or toy in a shoe box or large envelope. Close it and seal it. Tell the class that you are going to pretend to be the US Postal service and you are going to deliver a special package to someone in the class room (preferably another adult). Have the students carefully hand the package from one student to another until every student has had a chance to pass the package along. When the package reaches the intended recipient have them open the package and remove the contents. Show them that because all of the students handled the package carefully, the contents made it safely to their destination without being broken.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK The three heroes of Daniel 3 trusted God completely.

There was nothing that was going to shake their faith in God. They refused to turn away or disobey God no matter what the cost. When faced with the decision to worship a false God, or be thrown into the fiery furnace, their response was truly profound. "If this be so, our God who we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of your hand. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego knew that their God could deliver them physically from out of the furnace, however they also knew that if God, for whatever reason, did not, He was the true God, the only God who saves, and they would not worship a false god, even if it meant losing their lives. They understood a truth, that God is our deliverer. He has the power to save us from death.

In verses 24-25, when the men are indeed thrown into the furnace, the Kings servants declare that where only three men were thrown in the fire, that there were now four, "and the fourth has the appearance of the Son of God."

God did deliver Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego, and in doing so He proved himself to be the true God to King Nebuchadnezzar. Verse 28 shows the Kings own moment of deliverance, not a physical deliverance, but a spiritual and intellectual deliverance. "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent His angel and delivered his servants...there is no other God who is able to rescue in this way."

The interpretation/
exegesis of the passage.
What does this passage
mean? How does this
passage apply to my life?

LOOK Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego have met the true and living God. There is nothing that can shake them from their total faith in Him. They have understood a truth about God, that He can do all things, and if He so chooses, He can deliver them from the greatest danger that they will ever face. Where the deliverance of these three occurs in the physical, the deliverance that God promises to us is in the spiritual. God can, and will, deliver us from the greatest danger that we will face. The biggest problem that we will ever have is not a fiery furnace, or a king demanding that we worship a false idol. It is not a bully at school, or a problem in our family. Our biggest problem is sin. The Bible tells us that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) Just like Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego needed to be saved, or delivered, from out of the fiery furnace, we need to be delivered from our sin.

LOOK (Continued)

When the three men needed to be rescued, the servants of King Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace and saw a fourth man, someone who looked like the son of God. When Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego needed to be delivered, Jesus Christ himself went and stood with them. He entered the very place that these men were and kept them from the fire. In the same way Jesus Christ came into our place, the earth, became a person just like you and me, and delivered us from sin. He did this by paying our penalty by dying on the cross. Jesus is not only the deliverer of these three faithful men in the Old Testament, but he is also the deliverer of you and me.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

TOOK

Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego were delivered because they had placed their trust in God above all things. Jesus says to us, “whosoever believes in me, will have everlasting life.” In placing our hope and trust in Jesus, believing in Him and laying aside our sin, He delivers us and saves us from our sin.

Invite the students to place their trust and hope in God alone.

Pray: Thank the Lord for sending His son Jesus Christ to be our deliverer. Ask Him to stand with us, and be with us as we walk through this world, in the same way He stood with Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego.

Parent Question: How and when did God save (or deliver) you?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Daniel 3 by David Guzik

Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height *was* sixty cubits *and* its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

a. **Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold:** There is considerable debate regarding when this happened. Some think it was a short time after the events of Daniel 2, but others think it happened many years later.

i. There is a discernible link between Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2 and the image he made in Daniel 3. It seems that Nebuchadnezzar deliberately made an *entire* statue of gold, to say that the day of his reign and authority would never end - in contradiction to God's declared plan.

b. **An image of gold:** The image was more like a stylized obelisk rather than a normal statue, being 90 feet (30 meters) high and 9 feet (3 meters) wide. Being so large, it is safe to say that it was not made of solid gold but probably wood overlaid with gold. This was a common method of construction in the ancient world.

i. "On the plains of Dura there stands today, a rectilinear mound, about twenty feet high, an exact square of about forty-six feet at the base, resembling the pedestal of a colossal statue." (Heslop)

2. (2-3) All Babylonia's dignitaries gathered at the dedication of the image.

And King Nebuchadnezzar sent *word* to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

a. **Gather together the satraps:** **Satrap** is a Persian loan word that means *protector of the realm*. It refers to a specific category of public officials.

b. **All the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image:** The demand that all come to the dedication ceremony means that Nebuchadnezzar meant to use the worship of this image as a test of allegiance.

3. (4-6) The command to worship the image.

Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, *that* at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, *and* psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

a. **Horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery:** Some of these musical instruments are difficult to define precisely but the idea is still clear. This was an impressive orchestra.

i. The use of the Aramaic words for **lyre, psaltery and symphony** has led some critics to say that the Book of Daniel was written hundreds of years after the time of Daniel. They say this because these particular words are Aramaic words borrowed from Greek words and supposedly Daniel did not have these words at his disposal in the sixth century B.C., and they supposedly did not come into the Hebrew vocabulary until the third century B.C.

ii. Nevertheless, ancient records tell us there were Greeks in the region of Assyria, Babylon, and Persia as far back as the *eighth* century B.C. Archaeology also proves beyond a doubt that Greek mercenaries fought and made military settlements in and around Judea *before* the time of Daniel.

b. **Whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace:** The command was backed up by a powerful threat. Nebuchadnezzar regarded the refusal to worship the image as *treason*, not only as a religious offense.

i. In this, Nebuchadnezzar was just like many politicians who often seem willing to use religion to strengthen their grip on political power. Politicians are happy to blend together *spiritual* allegiance and *national* allegiance. An example of this was displayed in 1936 when Herr Baldur von Schirach, head of the youth program for Nazi Germany, said: "If we act as true Germans we act according to the laws of God. Whoever serves Adolf Hitler, the führer, serves Germany, and whoever serves Germany serves God."

ii. Another example comes from 1960 when the President of Ghana had a slightly larger than life-size statue of himself erected in front of the national house of Parliament. An inscription on the side of the statue read, "Seek ye first the political kingdom and all other things shall be added unto you." The statue was destroyed after a bloodless coup in 1966.

c. **A burning fiery furnace:** Nebuchadnezzar was not a man who allowed lawbreakers to go unpunished. In an ancient cuneiform writing, Nebuchadnezzar was described as so devoted to justice that "he did not rest night or day." The document also tells of a criminal guilty of a second offense who was decapitated, and afterwards a stone image of his head was displayed as a warning.

4. (7) The crowd obeys Nebuchadnezzar's command.

So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, *and* lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down *and* worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

a. **When all the people heard the sound:** Nebuchadnezzar's grand idolatry was accompanied by music - elaborate and well-produced music. This reminds us of the great inherent power in music, both for good and for evil.

b. **Fell down and worshiped the gold image:** According to Baldwin, this literally reads *as soon as they were hearing they were falling down*. There was total and immediate obedience to Nebuchadnezzar's command.

B. Three Hebrew men refuse the demand.

1. (8-12) Certain Chaldeans accuse the three Hebrew men.

Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews. They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, *and* psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and

Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."

a. **Certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews:** These Chaldeans had an obvious political motivation against these Jews who were promoted to high office along with Daniel in the events recorded in the previous chapter.

b. **They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image:** Apparently their failure to worship the image was not discovered until these certain Chaldeans made it known. With so many thousands of government officials in attendance, it would be easy to overlook these three. Additionally, we see from this that the three Jewish men did not lodge a formal protest; they simply refrained from sharing in the sin of idolatry themselves.

i. Their actions were not *public* but neither were they *hidden*. These three Hebrew men must have known they would be discovered, yet they obeyed God rather than man. "You will not be able to go through life without being discovered: a lighted candle cannot be hid. There is a feeling among some good people that it will be wise to be very reticent, and hide their light under a bushel. They intend to lie low all the wartime, and come out when the palms are being distributed. They hope to travel to heaven by the back lanes, and skulk into glory in disguise. Ah me, what a degenerate set!" (Spurgeon)

2. (13-15) Nebuchadnezzar interviews the disobedient Hebrew men.

Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "*Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?*"

a. **Is it true:** To his credit, Nebuchadnezzar did not accept the accusation on hearsay. He made sure of it with a personal interview. This was an even greater test for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. It is one thing to make a stand for God; it is a greater thing to *stick to your stand* when pointedly asked, "**Is it true?**" Peter followed Jesus after His arrest, but he wilted and denied Jesus when asked, "**Is it true?**"

i. "If, standing before the heart-searching God at this time, you cannot say, 'It is true,' how should you act? If you cannot say that you take Christ's cross, and are willing to follow him at all hazards, then hearken to me and learn the truth. Do not make a profession at all. Do not talk about baptism or the Lord's Supper, nor of joining a church, nor of being a Christian; for if you do, you will lie against your own soul. If it be not true that you renounce the world's idols, do not profess that it is so. It is unnecessary that a man should profess to be what he is not; it is a sin of supererogation, a superfluity of naughtiness. If you cannot be true to Christ, if your coward heart is recreant to your Lord, do not profess to be his disciple, I beseech you. He that is married to the world, or flinthearted, had better return to his house, for he is of no service in this war." (Spurgeon)

b. **But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace:** Nebuchadnezzar would not tolerate losing face on such an important occasion. His pride made him declare, "You shall have no other gods than me."

i. We can imagine the enormous pressure on Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego to compromise. Everything in front of them - the king, the furnace, the music, their compatriots, their competitors - all of it conspired to convince them to compromise. Yet God was more real to them than any of those things. "Do not judge the situation by the king's threat and by the heat of the burning fiery furnace, but by the everlasting God and the

eternal life which awaits you. Let not flute, harp, and sackbut fascinate you, but hearken to the music of the glorified. Men frown at you, but you can see God smiling on you, and so you are not moved." (Spurgeon)

c. **Who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?** Nebuchadnezzar thought nothing of insulting *all* gods with this statement. He is more of a *secularist* or a *humanist* than a *theist*. The god he *really* believes in is himself, not the gods of Babylon.

3. (16-18) The three Hebrew men insist they will never worship the image.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that *is the case*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

a. **We have no need to answer you:** They had **no need** to defend themselves. Their guilt in the matter was clear - they clearly would not bow down to this image.

b. **Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us:** In this, the Jewish men showed a good understanding and appreciation of God's great power. In fact, they knew that God was able to save them from both the **burning fiery furnace** and from the **hand** of Nebuchadnezzar himself.

c. **But if not:** In this, the Jewish men show they had a good understanding and appreciation of *submission* to God. They knew God's power, but they also knew that they must do what was right even if God did not do what they expect or hope Him to do.

i. We often complain about our rights and what is fair. Often it is better to make a stand and endure our difficulty, leaving our fate in God's hands.

ii. They did not doubt God's *ability*, but neither did they presume to know God's *will*. In this they agreed with Job: *Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him* (Job 13:15). They recognized that God's plan might be different than their desires. I have my own desires and dreams and I pray that God fulfills them. But if He doesn't, I can't turn my back on Him.

iii. These were men who did *not* love too much. There are popular self-help books that hope to help people who seem to love too much, yet many Christians are hindered because they love too much. Remember that early Christians were not thrown to the lions because they worshipped Jesus, but because they would *not* worship the emperor.

iv. In our day, many do love Jesus and think highly of Him - yet they are far from God because they also love and worship the world, sin, and self. *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him* (1 John 2:15).

d. **Let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up:** It took great faith to say this. God brought them to this place of great faith by preparing them with tests in less dramatic areas.

i. These men stood firm when challenged to eat impure foods and they saw God bless their obedience. That gave them the courage to obey now, when the stakes were much higher.

ii. Many fail in their obedience because they wait for something "big" to test their faith before they really start to obey God. Some fill their life with many small compromises; yet tell themselves that they will stand firm when it really matters. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego show us that obedience to God in small things

really matters.

e. **Let it be known to you, O king:** The statement of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego is also remarkable for what it does *not* have - any hint of an excuse. In a time of testing like this it is easy to think of a thousand excuses that seem to justify compromise.

i. They might have said, "*There is nothing to gain by resisting; wouldn't we do more good by living?*" It is easy to say, "We must live," but in reality, we all must die - so why not die making a stand for God?

ii. They might have said, "*We are in a different place; in Rome, do as the Romans do.*" Yet they knew that God has unlimited jurisdiction. We must do more than "perform" acts of religious obedience when we have an audience.

iii. They might have said, "*We will lose our jobs and our standard of living.*" Often when God blesses us, we make the blessing an idol and compromise God to keep what we have.

iv. They might have said, "*After all, we are not being called to renounce our God.*" They did not have a super-elastic conscience that said, "We are not bowing down to the idol, but only bowing down in respect for the king, or in honor of the music." Excuses like this are common but prove the principle that anything will serve as an excuse, when the heart is bent on compromise.

v. They might have said, "*Everybody else is doing it.*" Instead they cultivated brave personalities, willing to stand alone with God.

vi. They might have said, "*It is only for once, and not for very long. Ten minutes, just for the king. It is stupid to throw our lives away for ten minutes.*" These men knew that ten minutes could change an entire life. Ten minutes can chart the course for your eternity.

vii. They might have said, "*This is more than can be expected of us; God will understand just this once.*" It is true that God understands our struggle with sin - that is why He loves the sinner and made provision at the cross for freedom from the penalty, power, and presence of sin. Knowing that "God understands" should be a spur to obedience, not a license to sin.

viii. "I am glad that the three holy children were not 'careful to answer,' [the KJV has, "we are not careful to answer thee" here] or they might have fallen upon some crooked policy or lame excuse for compromise. What have we to do with consequences? It is ours to do the right, and leave results with the Lord." (Spurgeon)

C. The Hebrew men in the fiery furnace.

1. (19-23) The three men are cast violently into the furnace.

Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who *were* in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, *and cast them* into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their *other* garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

a. **Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury:** No matter how brave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were, facing the **fury** of a king was still extremely intimidating. We get the feeling that prior to their statement Nebuchad-

nezzar spoke kindly, almost in a fatherly manner to these wayward boys. After hearing their bold challenge **the expression on his face changed.**

i. Despite the intense intimidation, the men stayed courageous in their confession of faith. Spurgeon eloquently described the horror of those who lose their courage at such times: "Remember also that by yielding to the fear of man you are demeaning yourself. There shall come a day when the man that was ashamed of Christ will himself be ashamed: he will wonder where he can hide his guilty head. Look at him! There he is! The traitor who denied his Lord! The Christ was spat upon and nailed to the cross, and this man was afraid to own him. To win the smile of a silly maid, to escape the jest of a coarse fellow, to win a few pieces of silver, to stand respectable among his fellow-men, he turned his back upon his Redeemer and sold his Lord; and now what can be said for him? Who can excuse him? The angels shun him as a man who was ashamed of the Lord of glory. He is clothed with shame and everlasting contempt. Even the lost in hell get away from him, for many of them were more honest than he. Is there such a man as this before me? I summon him in the name of the living God to answer for his cowardice! Let him come forth and own his crime, and humbly seek forgiveness at the hands of the gracious Savior." (Spurgeon)

b. **Bound in their coats . . . the furnace exceedingly hot:** Everything was done to make sure that the three Hebrew men were quickly and completely burned.

2. (24-25) Nebuchadnezzar sees four alive and well in the furnace.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste *and* spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

a. **Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished:** It is astonishing that anyone survived for a moment *inside* the furnace when others perished *at the door*.

i. The Septuagint says in Daniel 3:24 that Nebuchadnezzar's attention was caught when he heard the men singing praises in the furnace. We can imagine that the king had them cast into the furnace and didn't intend to look twice, believing they would be immediately consumed. As he walked away with a satisfied look on his face, he was immediately stopped by the sound of *singing* coming from the furnace. At a safe distance from the raging heat, he peered inside - and saw **four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire.**

ii. If this singing in the furnace is true, it reminds us of Paul and Silas singing in the Philippian jail (Acts 16:25).

b. **I see four men loose . . . and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God:** Nebuchadnezzar tells us who the fourth person was - **the Son of God.** Jesus was literally with them in the worst of their trial.

i. We don't know if Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego *knew* that the **Son of God** was with them in their fiery trial. Sometimes we are aware of Jesus' presence in our trials and sometimes we are not - but He is there nonetheless.

ii. Spurgeon observed that God's people are often in the furnace, and though there are different kinds of furnaces, they serve similar purposes in our life.

- There is the furnace that man prepares.
- There is the furnace that Satan prepares.
- There is the furnace that God prepares.

iii. God can deliver us *from* a trial, or He can miraculously sustain and strengthen us *in* a trial. Trapp quotes an

English martyr who said this as he was burnt at the stake: "O ye Papists, behold ye look for miracles; here now you may see a miracle; for in this fire I feel no more pain than as if I were in a bed of down; but it is to me as a bed of roses."

c. **I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire:** Nebuchadnezzar also observed that the four men were *free* in the fire. The fire only burnt the ropes that bound them.

3. (26-27) The Hebrew men leave the furnace unharmed.

Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace *and* spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come *here*." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

a. **Servants of the Most High God:** Before they were out of the furnace, Nebuchadnezzar recognized that these men served the *true* God, the God **Most High**.

b. **These men on whose bodies the fire had no power:** The trial had **no power** over these men because they were thoroughly submitted to the power and will of God. Before the time of Jesus, they knew the truth of Jesus' promise: *In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world* (John 16:33).

c. **The smell of fire was not on them:** This demonstrates how complete their deliverance was.

i. This whole account illustrates - perhaps serving as a type of - the future of Israel during the Great Tribulation.

- Nebuchadnezzar is like the Antichrist, who forces the whole world into one religion of idolatry.
- Nebuchadnezzar's image is like the image described in Revelation 13, that the whole world will be commanded to worship.
- The fiery furnace is like the Great Tribulation, which will be great affliction for the Jews.
- The three Hebrew men are like Israel, who will be preserved through the tribulation.
- The executioners who perished are like those in league with the Antichrist, who Jesus will slay at His return.
- The mysteriously absent Daniel is like the church, not even present for this time of great tribulation.

D. Aftermath.

1. (28) Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges the greatness of the God of the three Hebrews.

Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!"

a. **Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego:** Nebuchadnezzar gave glory to God, but he recognized that this great God is not *his* God. He was still **the God of** these three brave men.

b. **Who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him:** In Daniel 3:15 Nebuchadnezzar asked, "who *is* the god who will deliver you from my hands?" Now Nebuchadnezzar knew a great deal about this God.

- He is the God of the Hebrews (**the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego**).
- He is the God who sends a Savior (**who sent His Angel**).
- He is the God of great power (**delivered His servants**).
- He is the God worthy of trust (**who trusted in Him**).
- He is the God worthy of full surrender (**frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies**).
- He is the God who demands exclusive allegiance (**that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God**).

i. Nebuchadnezzar knew a lot about God - but he did not yet know Him personally.

c. **Yielded their bodies:** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego surrendered themselves *completely* to God - body, soul, and spirit. It was the kind of submission Paul wrote of in Romans 12:1: *present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

i. This whole account is a powerful illustration of the principle of Romans 12:1. We see Satan trying to make the believer bow down to his idealized image of what men and women should be. Christians must resist this with everything they have and pursue God's ideal. In this, we will fulfill Romans 12:2: *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

2. (29) Nebuchadnezzar makes a proclamation that nothing evil should be said against the God of the Hebrews.

"Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this." Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

a. **Therefore I make a decree:** The three Hebrew men did not ask for Nebuchadnezzar to make this decree, and they probably did not want him to. Coerced worship isn't good, either towards an idol or towards the true God.

b. **There is no other God who can deliver like this:** Seeing God at work in the life of His people was an extremely effective testimony to Nebuchadnezzar.

i. **Paul expressed the same idea in 2 Corinthians 3:2-3: You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.**