

## E2E- Part 108a

### Daniel 3

Mark Kring, Senior Pastor

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1. Nebuchadnezzar gathers the richest, most influential, and most educated to witness the dedication of the statue built in his honor.
2. He uses intimidation and demands that they bow to the statue in worship or be cast into a blazing, fiery furnace.
3. Nebuchadnezzar is a tyrant. Not even the Creator of the universe forces outward acts of submission. The True God desires willing worshippers, not robots.
4. As the orchestra plays and the people bow, the Chaldeans bring charges against the Jews and identify Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as those who refuse to bow to the statue.
5. These three men have done what is right and now face the enduring impact of pushing back against culture. They resolve not to be involved in idolatry and to worship God alone.
6. Their response in Daniel 3:16-18 displays profound faith and maturity. They do not doubt God's power to deliver them, but they do not presume that He will.
7. This is a great biblical truth: if deliverance is His will, He will bring it about. However, even if God allows hard things to come our way, He is with us the whole way.
8. Nebuchadnezzar sees their refusal to bow as nothing but an insult and a sign of insubordination, so he does not hesitate to demand brutal retribution.
9. The furnace is heated seven times hotter than usual. No mortal can survive even for a moment. Even coming near it proves fatal for the guards, yet Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego still have to face the furnace.
10. Nebuchadnezzar is astounded when he sees a fourth man in the fire.

## GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

**Qeren** (keh´-ren); (Aramaic) a horn (literally for sound):— cornet

**Ciyphonya** (soom-po-neh-yaw´) [grk origin] – in Aramaic it translates ‘in unison’

**Akal** (ak-al) :- accuse, devour, eat

**Lâh** (lawh) [Chaldee]; as nothing, without

## TODAY'S WORSHIP

I Know That I Know  
Been So Good  
I Believe  
Blessed Assurance

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Nebuchadnezzar uses pressure, status, and fear to force conformity. Where do you see similar kinds of pressure today, and how do we recognize when culture is asking for compromise instead of faithfulness?
2. If you were standing in that space with the music playing and everyone bowing, what thoughts or fears do you think would be running through your mind?
3. Their faith includes the words “even if He does not.” Why is that kind of surrender so difficult, and what does it look like practically in everyday life?
4. The three men had influence and positions in Babylon, yet they still drew a line. How do we balance living faithfully within a culture while also refusing to participate in things that conflict with our convictions?
5. God doesn't prevent the fire, but He meets them in it. How does that shape the way we think about suffering, hardship, or seasons when obedience actually makes life harder?