

## E2E- Part 108b

### Daniel 3

Mark Kring, Senior Pastor

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1. The truth that Jesus is eternally existent and fully God invigorates what is really going on in Daniel 3.
2. The fire that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego face is so fierce that the guards die before they can even throw them in. Yet God still allows them to enter the furnace.
3. When we are in the furnace God allows, the godless watch to see what comes out of our trials. We know that God uses trials for greater purposes, even impacting future generations.
4. Three men are tied up and thrown into the fire, yet King Nebuchadnezzar is astounded when he sees four men walking around, untied.
5. From a believer's perspective, we know that the preincarnate Christ appears in the Old Testament in several examples. Jesus does not begin at human birth in Bethlehem because He has always existed eternally with the Father.
6. We can know for sure that when believers go through trials, Jesus Christ is in the midst of them with us.
7. Jesus already went through the fire for us when He died on the cross, was buried, and destroyed the power of the grave, sealing our salvation with His resurrection.
8. The fire does zero damage to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Their clothing, bodies, and hair are unharmed, even without the smell of smoke on them.
9. Nebuchadnezzar realizes that the True God is the only one who can deliver in such a way.
10. The furnace experiences we encounter provide God with many opportunities to be near us in the midst, to do a great work for future generations, to draw others to Himself as a result of our faithfulness, and to ultimately bring Himself glory.

## GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

**Tewah** (tev-ah') [Chaldean]; through the idea of *sweeping* to ruin; to *amaze, take alarm*  
:- be astonished; bewildered; dazed, stunned

## TODAY'S WORSHIP

King of Kings  
Names  
Holy Forever  
I Love You Lord

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The guards who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego into the furnace were killed by the heat before they could even complete the task – yet God still allowed the three men to fall in.

- What does this tell you about the nature of the trials God permits in our lives?

Nebuchadnezzar watched the furnace expecting death, but instead witnessed something that stunned him.

- When people are watching how others handle a difficult season, what do you think they're actually looking for?

There is ongoing discussion about whether the fourth figure in the furnace was an angel or the pre-incarnate Christ.

- Regardless of your conclusion, what does it mean to you personally that God doesn't just *watch* you go through hard times – He enters them with you?
- In what ways have you experienced, seen, or heard of God entering into someone's hard times?

Nebuchadnezzar ultimately declared, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego" – not "blessed be the three men."

- How should that reframe the way we think about the purpose of our own suffering, as well as our faithfulness under pressure?

Mark closes with four things furnace experiences can produce in our lives: closeness with God, impact on future generations, drawing others to God, and glory for God.

- Which of these feels most real or meaningful – or most surprising – to you, and why?