

## A LESSON OF FAITH IN THE FURNACE OF AFFLICTION

(Daniel 3:1-30)

### I. KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR DREAMS A DREAM (2:1-49)

### II. THE FIERY FURNACE (3:1-30)

#### A. Nebuchadnezzar's GOLDEN IMAGE (3:1-7)

1. The king fashioned his own "image" entirely overlaid with gold, which demonstrated his \_\_\_\_\_ in claiming the \_\_\_\_\_ of his kingdom.
2. This statue was enormous, standing at least \_\_\_\_\_ feet tall, and \_\_\_\_\_ feet wide.
3. All of the high ranking officials of the kingdom were present at the dedication of this idol, and all were commanded to \_\_\_\_\_ it or it would be considered \_\_\_\_\_.

#### B. The DEMONSTRATION of the Judeans' Faith (3:8-18)

1. Undoubtedly a \_\_\_\_\_ plot was brewing in trying to eliminate these high ranking \_\_\_\_\_ officials. (vv. 8-12)
2. The three Judeans were once again faced with a serious dilemma (vv. 13-15)...
  - a. they could bow down to the image and violate the first two \_\_\_\_\_ in the Mosaic Law (Ex. 20:1-6)
  - b. or they could refuse to worship the idol and be \_\_\_\_\_ (Jer. 29:22)
3. Despite the fact that they were facing a furious king, all three unanimously agreed to stand together and \_\_\_\_\_ rather than man.
  - a. The reply, "*If that is the case*" means, "*If those are our options, there is no need for a long, drawn out defense, we are \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ worshipping the idol.*"

- b. While these young men were very confident that their God \_\_\_\_\_ deliver them, it was only a matter of -- \_\_\_\_\_ He was willing to do so.
- c. The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of these men and their steadfast faith which was resigned to fulfill the will of God at all cost is seen in the words, “*But if not...*”

### C. The VINDICATION of the Judeans’ Faith (3:19-30)

1. Nebuchadnezzar once again lost his temper and demanded that the furnace be heated \_\_\_\_\_ than the normal temperature for roasting people. (v. 19)
2. Blinded by rage the king \_\_\_\_\_ used some of his choicest men of valor to throw these young men into the furnace, and they \_\_\_\_\_ when just drawing near to it. (vv. 20-22)
3. King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and quickly got up and started asking questions when he saw \_\_\_\_\_ men walking around in the fire \_\_\_\_\_. (3:24-25; Isa. 43:2)

\* Most likely, who was the “fourth man” walking around in the fire?

4. The king asked for the three men who had been condemned to die, to come out of the fire; and when they did, everyone was \_\_\_\_\_ that the flames had \_\_\_\_\_ adverse affects on them. (vv. 26-27)
5. Nebuchadnezzar was willing to eat the words he spoke earlier (in v. 15), “*And who is the god who can deliver you from my hands?*” Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ the only true God.

\* What can you learn from this stand of faith?