



FAITH, FREEDOM, & FITNESS

DAILY BREAD

**Monday, May 18
Daniel 3:24-27**

*Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers,
“Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”*

They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

*He said,
“Look! I see four men walking around in the fire,
unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”*



***Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted,
“Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”***

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them.

They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.



King Nebuchadnezzar has acted with intense rage at being defied, commanding a series of foolish steps to demonstrate his power over the three Hebrew men – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. As part of his spite, the king ensures that he could watch his victims burn.

What he sees, however, causes the king to stand up in shock. His comments are something like asking, “Am I seeing things? Do you see what I see?” Certainly, God intended for the king to see the miracle being performed in the fire. What Nebuchadnezzar witnesses proves God’s power is far beyond that of any earthly ruler.

The advisors confirm that only three men fell into the fire, yet the king will claim he sees *four* people, who are not only alive, but unrestrained and moving. Nebuchadnezzar will refer to the fourth person as resembling “a son of the gods,” and later as an “angel” or “messenger” of the God of Israel.

Before their ordeal, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego confidently told the king they would not worship his idol. They were confident that God could save them, despite Nebuchadnezzar's arrogance. They were prepared to die for their faith, knowing God was not obligated to rescue them, but trusting that the Lord would do what was best. Here, their faith is validated.



The king is deeply struck by the supremacy of the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Moments ago, he was fuming in anger at being defied, but soon he will declare that these men were right to disobey his orders.

Here, God makes it clear that the most powerful kings have no effect on the Lord's power over His people or the affairs of the world. Mighty Nebuchadnezzar, king of the world's most powerful empire, was helpless against God's will.

In Christ, Spero



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