

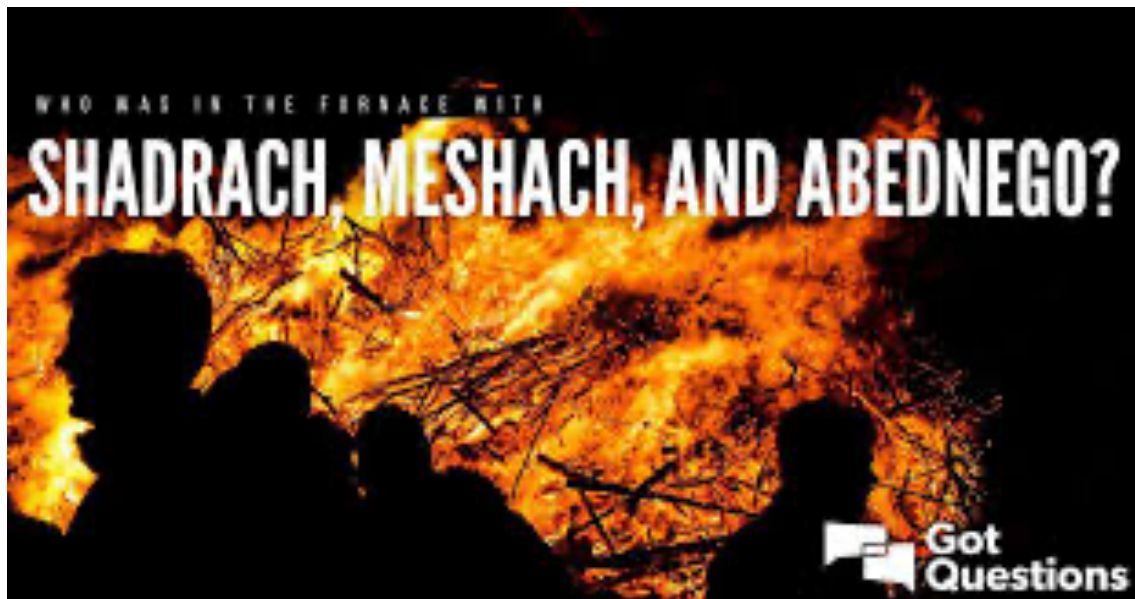


FAITH, FREEDOM, & FITNESS

DAILY BREAD

**Tuesday, May 19
Daniel 3:28-30**

*Then Nebuchadnezzar said,
“Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego,
who has sent his angel and rescued his servants!
They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing
to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except
their own God.*



***Therefore,
I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything
against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble,
for no other god can save in this way.”***

***Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the
province of Babylon.***

In today's verses from Daniel 3:28-30, King Nebuchadnezzar's attitude is not merely reversed, but the pagan king also makes a shocking comment: that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were right to disobey his command.

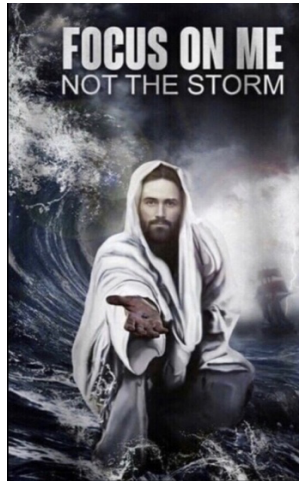
When he first challenged the Israelites, the king sarcastically asked what possible god could protect them from his royal wrath. That insincere question results in a sincere answer: the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego could, and He did just that.



Only by trusting in God's Son, Jesus Christ, as Lord and Savior can a person truly know God. Yet, even today, many people follow a subtle version of Nebuchadnezzar's mistake. They go through the motions of worshipping the Lord Sunday by Sunday without knowing Him personally. They believe it's possible to serve and honor other things, idols, and simply think of God as the "best of many options."

What happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego seemed terrible at first. Without doubt, what was done to them was irrational, evil, and horribly violent. Yet the Lord ensured the result was for their benefit. This turn of events echoes the experience of Joseph in the Book of Genesis. After being betrayed by his brothers, he told them later, “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

In Christ, Spero



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