

January 4, 2008

## Faith to Stand (Daniel 3)

Introduction: Our lesson tonight centers on Daniel's three godly companions, young men who stood face to face with a moral and spiritual decision to either face a fiery furnace or give in to the peer pressure of disobedience to God.

- I. Who Were These Three Men?
  - A. Captives with Daniel taken from Judah to Babylon.
  - B. Young men.
  - C. Their names were changed. Why?
  - D. They were highly qualified. (Daniel 1:4, 18-20)
  
- II. Faith Challenged By Manmade Rules & Expectations
  - A. A look at Nebuchadnezzar, the king behind it all. (3:1)
    1. In chapter 3 he built a 90 foot image of gold.
    2. In chapter 2 he had a dream about a statue where the head was representative of him.
  - B. The king issues a decree to bow to the image but these 3 men refuse.(3:3-6, 8-12)
  - C. Nebuchadnezzar's reaction. (3:13-15)
  
- III. Their Response Resulted From an Unwavering Faith
  - A. This is one of the greatest answers. (3:16) "No!"
    1. There's no misinterpreting that answer.
    2. Titus 2:11-12 "teaching us to say no to ungodliness."
    3. Nebuchadnezzar is enraged at their answer. (3:19)
  - B. What makes these men and their faith so great?
    1. They were facing a furnace.
    2. It was furnace they could see.
    3. They were young and still stood their ground.
    4. They didn't care about what everyone else was doing.
    5. They risked losing a great job.
    6. They were away from home.

Conclusion: Nebuchadnezzar's final reaction. (3:26; 4:34-35) The song, "Stand Up For Jesus" means we don't serve the things of the world, we serve the one and true living God. Sometimes that mean's we'll have to stand alone with Him. Stand strong in your faith.