

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

LESSON 3: FAITH TESTED BY FIRE

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THOUGH WE FIND NO PLEASURE IN THEM, TRIALS ARE INEVITABLE. THEY CAN BE, HOWEVER, BENEFICIAL IF VIEWED THROUGH THE LENS OF FAITH – JAS 1:2-4; SEE 1 PET 4:12-13.

- THE WORD *TRIAL* IN JAS 1:2 (GR. *PEIRASMOS*) CAN MEAN “TRIAL” OR “TEMPTATION,” BUT IT ALWAYS CARRIES THE IDEA OF “TESTING” OR “PROVING.”

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THOUGH WE FIND NO PLEASURE IN THEM, TRIALS ARE INEVITABLE. THEY CAN BE, HOWEVER, BENEFICIAL IF VIEWED THROUGH THE LENS OF FAITH – JAS 1:2-4; SEE 1 PET 4:12-13.

- PEOPLE OF FAITH (E.G., JOB, ABRAHAM, JESUS) HAVE FACED REGULARLY FACED UNIQUE TRIALS, YET THEY ARE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT THEM – SEE JAS 1:2-4; 1 PET 1:6-9.

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THERE ARE CERTAIN CULTURAL BELIEFS AND PRACTICES WE CAN TOLERATE, BUT WHEN WE ARE ASKED TO VIOLATE GOD'S WILL AND REFUSE, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE CONFLICT – DAN 3:1-7.

- SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO'S TEMPTATION IS, IN A SENSE, REPRESENTATIVE OF EVERY TEMPTATION TO COMPROMISE – SEE EXOD 20:3-6; MATT 10:32-39.

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- WHEN OBEYING GOD MEANS DISOBEYING POWERFUL PEOPLE, RISKING NEGATIVE RESULTS, AND DISAGREEING WITH THE MASSES, THE DESIRE TO COMPROMISE IS STRENGTHENED – VV. 4-7.

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LIKE SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO, WE MUST DETERMINE BEFORE THE TRIAL COMES THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE FULLY COMMITTED TO GOD — DAN 3:8-18.

- WHEN WE CHOOSE GOD AND HIS WILL INSTEAD OF WICKEDNESS, UNBELIEVERS NOT ONLY NOTICE BUT SOMETIMES EVEN HATE US—SINCE THEY FEEL “JUDGED” — VV. 8-12; SEE JOHN 15:18-21.

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LIKE SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO, WE MUST DETERMINE BEFORE THE TRIAL COMES THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE FULLY COMMITTED TO GOD – DAN 3:8-18.

- WE MUST UNHESITATINGLY, RESOLUTELY, AND CONFIDENTLY STAND WITH GOD, KNOWING THAT WHATEVER HE CHOOSES TO DO IS FOR OUR ULTIMATE GOOD – VV. 16-18; SEE ROM 8:28.

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GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS SOVEREIGNTY (AND HIS GOODNESS) IN ALL THINGS THROUGH HIS OMNIPOTENCE, AND THIS SHOULD STRENGTHEN OUR RESOLVE – DAN 3:19-30.

- **THOSE WHO REJECT GOD OFTEN GET ANGRY WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE REFUSE TO CONFORM TO THEIR DESIRES, AND THEY INTENSIFY THEIR PERSECUTION – VV. 19-23; SEE 2 TIM 3:12-13.**

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GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS SOVEREIGNTY (AND HIS GOODNESS) IN ALL THINGS THROUGH HIS OMNIPOTENCE, AND THIS SHOULD STRENGTHEN OUR RESOLVE – DAN 3:19-30.

- **GOD, HOWEVER, NEVER FORSAKES HIS PEOPLE; HE IS CONTINUALLY PRESENT WITH US, DOING WHAT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE AND DELIVERING US FROM ANY AND ALL OPPOSITION – VV. 24-27.**

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GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS SOVEREIGNTY (AND HIS GOODNESS) IN ALL THINGS THROUGH HIS OMNIPOTENCE, AND THIS SHOULD STRENGTHEN OUR RESOLVE – DAN 3:19-30.

- **LIKE SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO, WE CAN FIND COMFORT IN GOD, WHO HE IS, WHAT HE SAYS, AND WHAT HE DOES – LUKE 18:27; EPH 3:20-21; DEUT 31:6, 8; JOSH 1:5; PS 118:6; HEB 13:5-6; ISA 43:2; HEB 1:14.**

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GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS SOVEREIGNTY (AND HIS GOODNESS) IN ALL THINGS THROUGH HIS OMNIPOTENCE, AND THIS SHOULD STRENGTHEN OUR RESOLVE – DAN 3:19-30.

- **THOUGH GOD COULD REVEAL HIS SOVEREIGNTY IN MANY WAYS, IT SEEMS THAT HE FREQUENTLY CHOOSES TO DO SO IN THE TRIED FAITH OF HIS PEOPLE – VV. 28-30.**

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OUR FAITH IS GOING TO BE TESTED, POSSIBLY EVEN DAILY! IT IS VITAL THAT WE BUILD FAITH AND CONVICTION NOW SO THAT WE DO NOT WAVER WHEN TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS COME.