

1. **“You must fall down and worship the image”**

2. **“Even if He does not”**

3. **“No other god can save in this way”**

# The Book of Daniel

## chapter 3

God's glory: The suffering of faithful servants

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## Introduction

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Daniel, his friends, and many of the Jewish leaders were captives in Babylon. It was the worst period of Jewish history because God was punishing Judah for her sins. In Daniel chapter 2 God revealed his sovereign rule over earthly kingdoms and his rule over history by giving Daniel the secrets to King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Daniel became God's messenger and he was given the gift of interpreting dreams.

## Opening discussion

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What was the costliest decision you ever had to make? What was it? What did it cost you?

## Read the passage: *Daniel 3*.

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Are there any new words or ideas which need explaining?

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar build? Why did he build it?
2. How tall was this thing that he built? How high is ninety feet?
  - a. 2 story building (small apartment)
  - b. 8 story building (small office block)
  - c. 10 story building (medium office block)
  - d. 15 story building (small hotel)
3. Background: Read Exodus 20:1–6. What is God’s attitude towards idols?
4. Many people don’t think idols are bad because it doesn’t seem to harm anyone. What’s wrong with idolatry even if it doesn’t seem dangerous?
5. From the story how did Daniel’s friends get in trouble with the King?
6. Reading 3:16–18 again, why did Daniel’s friends oppose the King and his threats to kill them? Which answer is true? Give your reasons.
  - a. They were confident that God would save them.
  - b. They were against idolatry.
  - c. They wouldn’t let the King scare them or bully them.
  - d. They were proud and stubborn young men.
  - e. They didn’t know what else to do.
  - f. They feared God more than they feared the King.
- 7a. What happened to Daniel’s friends in the furnace?

7b. How did the King respond?

8. How was God glorified in v28–29?

9. Do you think this story is true or false? How does it change your opinion about God if it’s true?

## Meaning and Relevance

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10. Which of the following statements are true and which are false? Give reasons.
- a. God always saves his people from trouble.
  - b. God sometimes put people in difficult situations to test them.
  - c. God doesn’t always save his people from trouble.
  - d. Christians suffer because people don’t like them or God.
  - e. God rules over all the nations not just the Jews or Christians.
  - f. Obeying God should not depend on whether God will rescue us or not.

## Summary

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Daniel’s friends knew that God could rescue them but their faithfulness to God did not depend on His rescue. They were willing to die for God whether God would rescue them or not. As it turns out, on this occasion God did save His people.

This story points forward to Jesus in the New Testament. There we see that God has done more than just send an angel to save three men. He has sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to save everyone who trusts in Him. Jesus’ death and resurrection gives us confidence that we can be saved, and enjoy life with God forever.

Opposition will continue to happen to Christians because the world is against Jesus. But Christians have hope and courage to face opposition because of His death and resurrection.