

Building Bridges

Dan. 3:16-18

*“When God Builds Bridges **THROUGH** Trials”*

Dan. 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we *are* not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Our theme this year is building bridges. Last week, we considered

“Rebuilding the Broken Bridges”

Today we will consider the challenge... *“When God Builds Bridges THROUGH Trials”*

I. GOD ALLOWS TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES

A. Sometimes we have no choice.

Dan. 1:6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel *the name* of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

- Daniel means "*GOD is my judge.*"
- Hananiah means "*Beloved of the Lord.*"
- Mishaël means "*Who is as GOD,*"
- Azariah means "*The Lord is my help.*"

Daniel means "*GOD is my judge.*"

Belteshazzar means "*Bel's Prince.*"

Hananiah means "*Beloved of the Lord.*"

Shadrach means, "*illuminated by the Sun- god.*"

Mishael means "*Who is as GOD.*"

Meshach means "*Who is like Venus.*"

Azariah means "*The Lord is my help.*"

Abednego means, "The Servant of Nego" –
(Considered to be equivalent to Lucifer).

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=XMHruHkedzk%3D&tabid=139&mid=527>

B. Sometimes we have notable choices.

1. Dangerous Decrees

Dan. 3:4 Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded,
O people, nations, and languages,

5 *That* at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute,
harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, **ye
fall down and worship the golden image that
Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:**

6 And **whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the
same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.**

2. Deadly Decisions

- The Hebrews did not obey the king's demand – a deadly decision.
- Their enemies spied upon them and told the “authorities – a deadly decision.

Dan. 3:12 There are certain Jews **whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon**, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; **these men, O king, have not regarded thee**: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

- The king called and questioned them about their apparent rebellion.

Dan. 3:13 Then **Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**. Then they brought these men before the king.

14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, **Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?**

- The Hebrews answer the king boldly – a deadly decision

Dan. 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, **O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.**

17 If it be so, **our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.**

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that **we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.**

II. GOD ALLOWS TOUGHER CONSEQUENCES

A. When it rains, it pours!

- The Hebrews' answer enraged the king.

Dan. 3:19a “**Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury**, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego...”

- The furnace was heated seven times hotter.

Dan. 3:19b “...and **commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.** ”

- The king commanded the most mighty men to bind and cast the Hebrews into the furnace of fire.

Dan. 3:20 And he commanded **the most mighty men that were in his army to bind** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, *and to cast them* into the burning fiery furnace.

B. When things go from bad to worse!

- The Hebrews were “bound.”

Dan. 3:21a “Then **these men were bound...**”

- The Hebrews were bound...in flammable clothing

Dan. 3:21b “...their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their *other* garments...”

- The Hebrews were cast into the **middle** of the fiery furnace.

Dan. 3:21c “...**and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.**”

- The fire was so hot that it consumed the kings’ most mighty men!

Dan. 3:22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, **the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.**

- The Hebrews were fallen “down” in the middle of the fiery furnace.

Dan. 3:23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, **fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.**

III. GOD ADVANCES TRIUMPHANT CHRISTIANS

A. The Rigor of Refining

Dan. 3:24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, *and* spake, and said unto his counsellors, **Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?** They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

- They were bound, then cast into the middle of the fire.

B. The Result of Righteousness

- Faithfulness, during a time of trouble, led to fellowship in the middle of the fire with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dan. 3:25 He answered and said, **Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire**, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like **the Son of God**.

- The fire did not go out. They came THROUGH the fire!

Dan. 3:26b “...Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, **came forth of the midst of the fire.**”

- God delivered them according to their faith!

Dan. 3:17 If it be so, **our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us** out of thine hand, O king.

- The “prominent people” witnessed this one-time incident.

Dan. 3:27a “And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, **being gathered together, saw these men...**”

- The issue was power – the king’s power – the fire’s power – the Lord’s power!

Dan. 3:27b “...**upon whose bodies the fire had no power...**”

- God pays attention to details! – no hair singed, NO SMELL OF SMOKE!

Dan. 3:27c “...nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.”

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are NOT listed by name in Heb. 11:34:

Heb. 11:34 “Quenched the violence of fire...”

- God was refining the Hebrews to *be* effective testimonies

Dan. 3:28a “*Then* Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed *be* the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego...”

- This challenge started with a decree and is now ending with a decree.

Dan. 3:29 Therefore **I make a decree**, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against **the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

- The *fiery experience* produced great opportunities for the Hebrews:

Dan. 3:30 Then **the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**, in the province of Babylon.

Conclusion

Rom. 8:18 For I reckon that **the sufferings of this present time *are not worthy to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**

“The revelation of God is the fruit of the flame.” – A. W. Tozer

Rom. 8:28 And **we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.**

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did **predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Phil. 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

1 Jn. 3:1 **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:** therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 **Beloved, now are we the sons of God,** and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him;** for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him **purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**

“WHILE IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE OUT OF CONTROL,
BEHIND THE SCENES THERE IS A GOD WHO HASN'T
SURRENDERED HIS AUTHORITY.”

A. W. Tozer