

Mosaic Teaching Guide

Teaching Series: *Sunday School Stories*

Teaching: *Three Hebrews in the Fiery Furnace*

Text: Daniel 3

Daniel 3.8-18

Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O King. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.” Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?” Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. ***If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.***”

Introduction: Powerless

What do you do when you feel powerless to respond when you are the victim of injustice?

Israel, the people of God in the OT, knew what it was to be powerless.

King Nebuchadnezzar

To say King Nebuchadnezzar was a ruthless and merciless king is a bit of an understatement.

His cruelty was matched only by his megalomania.

Our Story

In our story for today we find the cruel king asserting his power and demanding allegiance from his people.

But Daniel and his three friends were also devout and faithful Hebrew men, committed to Torah living.

The Showdown

“Who is the god that can rescue you from my power?”

This story is really all about power and sovereignty.

They have no guarantee that God will make them fire proof, none of us do.

Now, for me, this story could have gone either way.

Remember Stephen, the first Christian martyr?

Proselytizing

Nobody likes these sorts of encounters, except the notoriously obnoxious among us.

Marcellus

Marcellus was faithful. He lived in an alternative reality in which the God of Jesus is sovereign.

“Not even the fire, let alone the king, can rule over them.”

Next Week: Daniel in the Lion’s Den