

# CHAPTER 1 : THE CONTEXT

Jehoiakim did evil in the eyes of the Lord, which led to Nebuchadnezzar besieging/plundering Jerusalem. Many were hauled off into captivity in Babylon.

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (1:3-5) were among those selected to go into the king's service

These men resolved to not defile themselves with the royal food and wine. (1:8) They were tested and approved by the chief official. God “gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning” to these men, and they entered Nebuchadnezzar’s service.

“Moreover, at Daniel’s request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon...” - Dan. 2:49



THE ANCIENTS WERE  
COMMENDED:  
SMOKING OR NON?

Daniel 3



VSS. 1-7

Heathens behaving like heathens

A ginormous image of gold

An order to fall down and worship

A clear consequence for refusal

A huge problem for a God-follower - Exodus 20:3-6

VSS. 8-15

Jealousy rears its ugly head, and the men are reported to the king. He's furious, but gives them a second chance

(Temptation often comes around more than once.  
Consider Luke 4:13; 1 Peter 5:8)

'Then what God...?' Nebuchadnezzar clearly didn't have such a god



VSS. 16-18

Unwavering faith and incredible devotion

“Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power...for our struggle is not against flesh and blood...

Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground.”

- Eph. 6



VSS. 19-23

This fire is no joke!

7 X hotter : As hot as it can be

Attending soldiers die and the men fall into the  
furnace



VSS. 24-25

The 4<sup>th</sup> man

The three – joined by a 4<sup>th</sup> – were walking around in the flames ‘unbound and unharmed.’

“A son of the gods”

A heavenly being; and angel. Pre-incarnate Christ?



## VSS. 26-27

Of note: Nebuchadnezzar only called out the 3. No doubt he was uncertain that he wanted to mess with the 4<sup>th</sup> man!

Miraculously, no harm – not even singed.

Further, their robes were untouched and they bore no smell of smoke (See Isa. 43:1-2)



VSS. 28-30

They trusted God and defied the king  
They would rather die than serve another. Why?

Because there is ONE true God  
John 1:1,14; Col. 1:15-20



Is my love for God SO deep?

Is my faith SO strong?

Is my devotion SO real?

Would I choose death before dishonoring my Savior?

“But my righteous one will live by faith, and if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.”

- Heb. 10:38-39