

# The Old-Time Evangelistic News

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Stand or Compromise: What Will You Do? (Part 10)

Daniel 3:16-18

Last month we began looking at **The Product of Courage**. We considered The Appearance of the Son of God and also The Awareness that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were God's People and The Awareness of God's Power. Now we will look at a third aspect of The Product of Courage. Notice The Adoration in Daniel 3:28. The verse says, "Then *Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.*" Nebuchadnezzar has changed since the beginning of the chapter. At the beginning, he was full of pride. He had commanded an image to be made, possibly like him. He thought of himself so highly that he wanted everyone of his leaders to acknowledge his greatness and pledge their allegiance to him. In the middle of the chapter, when three Hebrew men dared to refuse to obey him, he was filled with rage. He could not believe that anyone would dare to refuse his command. He tried to intimidate them into bowing. When that did not work, he ordered them thrown into the fiery furnace for the purpose of killing them. When God intervened and showed His power, Nebuchadnezzar was amazed.

Now, after being full of pride and anger, Nebuchadnezzar is full of adoration. For the second time in the book, Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges that the God of the Hebrews is a great God. He would forget what he said at the end of chapter 2 and order an image to be made and worshipped. Sadly, he will forget what he said here at the end of chapter 3 because he will be full of pride again in chapter 4. God will humble him in chapter 4, and Nebuchadnezzar finally and

-2-

completely acknowledges his sinfulness and God's greatness and holiness. I believe he is converted at the end of chapter 4, but it will take a complete humiliation to bring him to that point. But our focus is on chapter 3 and what Nebuchadnezzar is saying here.

It must be remembered that Nebuchadnezzar's confession is a Product of Courage. If the Hebrew men would have bowed to the image, then Jesus would never have shown up, and Nebuchadnezzar would never have uttered this great adoration. We always want things to be easy, but it is often in the hard times that Christ is seen in us and others will see Christ. Everything that happened at the end of the chapter is a result of the hard trial that God's men had to go through. May we not desire an easy path or a light load. As Bob Jones Sr. said, "Do not ask for a light load, but ask for strong shoulders to carry a heavy load." God knows what He is doing. As with these Hebrew men, we may have to go through a fiery furnace for others to see Christ. If that be the case, may we trust in God to lead us through it.

Notice some interesting things about Nebuchadnezzar's adoration. He began by saying, "*Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.*" The word blessed carries the idea of kneeling before. Nebuchadnezzar is now saying that the Hebrews' God is the One that all should bow before. At the beginning of the chapter he had commanded everyone to bow before his god. Now he realizes how foolish he has been. His false god could not have delivered like the true God of Israel. When the Hebrew men would not obey and bow, Nebuchadnezzar was furious. But now he realizes they were right. There is only one God that should be worshiped. It is Jehovah. He made everything and everyone; therefore, all should bow before Him and worship and adore Him.

In his statement, Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges that the true God is a personal God. He calls Him "*the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.*" We find that true throughout the Bible. Earlier He is called the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is also called the

God of Elijah. All of these men knew God in a personal manner. God has always desired a personal relationship with man. He walked in the garden with Adam, and later it is said that He walked with Enoch, Noah, and others. He gave His Word to talk to us, and allows us to talk with Him in prayer. God is a personal God. He is also God in the present time. I am glad that Abraham, Isaac, and others knew Him, but I am also greatly excited that in their time, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew Him. They knew Him in their time; we can know Him in our time. Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that these men knew their God. May others recognize that we know God as well.

Nebuchadnezzar concluded his adoration by acknowledging the great power of God. He had seen it unfold before his eyes, but he wanted to let everyone know that he had seen what they had seen. He had ordered everyone to bow before his image. Everyone did but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then he had ordered them cast into the fiery furnace. Nebuchadnezzar recognized that it was their trust in God that made the difference. Once again we find that the foundation for everything is faith. As the writer of Hebrews said, *“Without faith it is impossible to please him [God].”* We can only be saved by faith, and we can only serve God by faith. It is amazing to see that Nebuchadnezzar saw the faith of these men. Nebuchadnezzar concludes his adoration by summarizing all that God had done, and then ordering in verse 29 that no one should say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. We should learn to adore God as Nebuchadnezzar did.

The chapter and story concludes with The Advancement. Verse 30 says, *“Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.”* The details of this promotion are not given in Scripture. We know from Daniel 2:49 that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had been placed over the affairs of the province of Babylon. Now they were promoted again. They were given a higher position with greater authority. But it only occurred because they stood up when tempted to compromise. We may never

be given a high position on earth, but that should not be our goal. We serve in a spiritual realm and fight a spiritual battle. That may result in some advancement of some sort, but that should never be our goal. I do not think that being promoted ever crossed the minds of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were just concerned about doing right. Likewise, our only desire should be to do right in the sight of God. But be mindful of this—God will honor those who honor Him. It may not be on this earth, but when we stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, those who have served faithfully will be honored. We do not serve for rewards alone, but Jesus Christ will reward us for being faithful. The path may be long and the trial severe, but to hear Christ say “Well done, thou good and faithful servant,” will be worth the long journey and severe trial. But remember, the promotion would never have occurred without standing for what was right. For us to hear the commendation from Christ, we must stand and not compromise.

Before we finish, may I mention three areas in our time on which we must not compromise. This will not sit well with many people because they have already compromised on these three things. Many will try to argue that they are justified in changing. “Times have changed,” they say. Time has changed, but God has not! I do not care to argue these points, but I will tell you what I believe to be right. There may be other issues, but to be honest these three are the biggest issues of our day. It is not the purpose of this message to elaborate on these, but I cannot close the message without mentioning them. Whole messages could be preached and written about them. I will not do that right now. I will mention them and say a little about them, and then conclude the message.

The first issue on which we cannot compromise is **Scripture**. For many years, even before I was born, many have said, “We need a modern translation. The King James cannot be understood.” They were wrong then, and they are wrong now. My children use the King James, and they understand it. The idea that the King James Version cannot be understood is ludicrous. We must use Scripture that came

from the Right Texts and Rightly Translates those original languages. The translators of the King James Version used the right texts and rightly translated the original languages. We do not need another English translation.

Secondly, we cannot compromise on **Singing**. Music has been an issue for many years and preachers and churches have changed their music to fit in with the world. That is wrong! The music of Bible believers should not be like the music of the world! Our singing must have the Right Message and the Right Music. The words must be Scriptural, and the sound must be distinct from the world's sound. What we sing in church and listen to at home should not sound like country music or rock music. It must be different!

Finally, we cannot compromise on **Standards**. This will really upset people. So be it! The clothing of the believer should have the Right Decency and the Right Distinction. Men should look different than women, and women should look different than men. God made them to be different, and that distinction should be kept. May we be like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. May we stand up for what is right and never compromise!