

Scripture verses in Daniel 3 quoted in following notes

I. Introduction

A. God & Christian in spiritual battle against Satan

1. Satan goes around looking to destroy Christian

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

2. Male lion roars to intimidate prey animals in one direction
3. Female lions wait in the bushes in opposite direction to kill fleeing prey.

B. Christians often feel silenced in public forum

1. Greater is Jesus within Christian than Satan who is in the world

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

2. God is our place of safety, and He is only a prayer away to help Christian

Psalm 46:1 (To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamoth) God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

C. Jesus is worthy of all praise

1. God is worthy of glory, honor, & power

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

2. Who is worthy to open the book?

Revelation 5:2, And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3. Christians redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus

1 Peter 1:18-19 ¹⁸ Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Revelation 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

4. Jesus worthy of power, honor, glory, & much more

Revelation 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

II. Provocation

- A. Satan wants to provoke truth (Dan 3:14)

1. King Nebuchadnezzar's actions

Daniel 3:14, 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?

- a. King Nebuchadnezzar asks, "You don't serve my gods?"
- b. King asks, "You don't worship my golden image?"
- c. King implies that Shadrach, Meshack, & Abednego failed his test of loyalty & obedience

2. Satan's goals

- a. His original name "Lucifer, son of the morning" (Isaiah 14:12)
- b. He was the cherub who covered God's throne (Ezekiel 28:14-15)
- c. He wanted to be like the Most-High God (Isaiah 14:14)
- d. Pride filled his heart with violence & caused his sin (Ezekiel 28:16-17)

3. Face of Satan's kingdom – false idols

- a. What are false idols?
 - i. Sacrifices to idols is worship to demon(s) (Deuteronomy 32:17)
 - ii. Pagan idol systems often sacrificed their own children to the idol's fire (Psalm 106:37)
- b. Power behind an idol is/are demon(s) in the kingdom of darkness (1 Corinthians 10:20)

4. Satan wanted Jesus to worship him

- a. Satan tempts Jesus to rule all the kingdoms of the world (Matthew 4:8-9)
- b. Satan tempts Jesus with all human power & wants Jesus to worship him (Luke 4:6-7)

B. Satan provokes against trust (Dan 3:15)

1. Throws doubt God's Word – "Has God said ...?"

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2. King Nebuchadnezzar says that God of Israel cannot deliver these 3 Jewish men

Daniel 3:15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

3. God answers these types of doubts
 - a. God calls Christian to trust Him with all their heart (Proverbs 3:5-6)
 - b. God can deliver the Christian (Isaiah 46:4)

III. Proclamation

A. Proclamation of refusal (Dan 3:18)

1. Three Jewish men refused King Nebuchadnezzar's demand

Daniel 3:18 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.

2. They were ready with their answer
3. Conviction comes from a previous decision
4. Christian always to have conviction ready with an answer

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

B. Proclamation of reliance (Dan 3:17)

1. Three Jewish men believed that God would deliver them from death

Daniel 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.

2. They believed God in life & in death
3. Christian belongs to the Lord & trusts in Him

Romans 14:8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

IV. Pressure

A. Temptation

1. Does not stop at “no”
2. Keeps up pressure of intimidating fear

B. King Nebuchadnezzar was not bluffing (Dan 3:19-22)

1. King ordered the furnace more fuel to burn even hotter

Daniel 3:19 Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

2. Furnace burned up king’s servants around furnace

Daniel 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.

C. God gives another spirit to Christian

1. God’s spirit against spirit of fear

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2. Perfect love throws out fear

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

V. Protection

A. King so surprised (Dan 3:24-25)

1. Three Jewish men were not burned up, but still alive

Daniel 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.

2. King saw four (not three) walking around in the fire

Daniel 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.

3. God above still sees all injustices

Ecclesiastes 5:8 If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they.

B. God's miracle of deliverance (Dan 3: 26-27)

1. King calls three Jewish men out of the fire

Daniel 3:26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

2. God delivered them without any harm from the fire

Daniel 3:27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

3. God gives order to steps of a good man

Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

VI. Praise

A. Respected position (Dan 3:28)

1. King gave his praise to God who changed the king's word

Daniel 3:28 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.

2. God can change ruler's hearts

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

B. Rightful praise (Dan 3:29)

1. King Nebuchadnezzar commanded no one speak against God of Israel

Daniel 3:29 Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak anything 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.

2. Every thing shall bow the knee & give worship to God

Isaiah 45:23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

VII. Conclusion

A. God is alone – there is no other God

Deuteronomy 4:39 Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.

B. Give God glory & worship God in the beauty of holiness

1 Chronicles 16:29 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

C. God does not share His glory with any created being(s)

Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD: that [is] my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

D. God insists that Christian worship Him alone – and none other (also Deuteronomy 5:7-9)

Exodus 20:3-5³ Thou shalt have no other gods before me. ⁴ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: ⁵ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;