

The Fiery Furnace and Faith Under Fire

Harold Summers

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References: Daniel 3, Daniel 3:3-12; Revelation 13:14-17; Daniel 3:15-22; Daniel 3:24-29; Luke 13:28

The Decree and the Golden Image

We're very thankful for lunch, and we feel very sorry for Joel and Hong because they didn't have any of our lunch. Very good. So, any other comments now? Let's carry on, learn a little bit more about Nebuchadnezzar and this image. So we'll pick up on verse three of Daniel chapter three.

我们为午餐感到非常感恩。我们为Joel和陆航感到遗憾，因为他们没有吃我们的午餐。很好。大家现在有没有一些看法呢？那我们继续来多学一点关于尼布甲尼撒和他的像。我们要从但以理书第三章第三节开始。

[Daniel 3:3-12 NKJV]

³ So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁴ Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵ that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; ⁶ and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." ⁷ So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁸ Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews. ⁹ They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! ¹⁰ You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image; ¹¹ and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a

burning fiery furnace. ¹² There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."

第三节说：“于是总督、钦差、巡抚、掣辖、藩司、谋士、法官，和各省的官员都聚集了来，要为尼布甲尼撒王所立的像行奉献之礼，就站在尼布甲尼撒所立的像前。”第四节至第五节说：“那时传令的大声呼叫说：‘各民、各国、说各种语言的人哪，有令传给你们：你们一听见角、笛、琵琶、琴、瑟，和各样乐器的声音，就当俯伏敬拜尼布甲尼撒王所立的金像。’”

So who were these people? They have given all these fancy names in verse three, but in verse four they are called "peoples, nations, and languages." Remember, Nebuchadnezzar was king of the world, and so all the major nations around Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar's control would be there—different peoples, different nations, different languages. And they were called to fall down and worship at the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, psaltery.

这些人是谁呢？第三节给了这么多奇特的名字，但第四节又称他们为“各民、各国、说各种语言的人”。要记住，当时尼布甲尼撒是世界的王，所有在巴比伦王国周围、在尼布甲尼撒控制下的国家的人都在那里——各民、各国、说各种语言的人。他们被召在听见角、笛、琵琶、琴、瑟的声音时，俯伏敬拜。

I kind of wonder why all those instruments are mentioned. Was it an orchestra? Maybe. I kind of wonder if Nebuchadnezzar didn't have special music from each of the peoples that he had conquered. I think, among other things, he was bragging about the nations around him, and so he would probably have good French music and Swedish music; for each of the countries around, he probably had music for them. There are those who suggest that among the types of instruments that were here, there was even something like bagpipes. Those of us, like my sister and me, who have a Scottish background, we would say, "Oh, this is pretty good music, because there are even bagpipes." I think it was designed to appeal to every nationality.

我感到非常好奇，为什么这些乐器的名字都被提出来了？那是不是一个交响乐团呢？有可能。我觉得尼布甲尼撒可能是从每一个他征服的国家民族里都带来了一种特殊的乐器。我认为他除了其他目的外，也是在炫耀周围的国家，所以他可能有点法国音乐、有点瑞典音乐，每一个周围国家的音乐他都有一点。有人甚至认为，在这些乐器当中，有一种像风笛一样的乐器。像我和我姐姐这样有苏格兰背景的人就会说：“噢，这音乐真不错，因为连风笛都有。”我认为这是为了吸引不同的国籍而设计的。

Verse six: "And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." Was it designed to make sure that everybody worshiped? It was one of the greatest international parties that has ever been held in the world. It was in

honor of Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian kingdom. Everybody in the kingdom was to acknowledge that Nebuchadnezzar was the boss, and that they were even to worship him as a god.

第六节说：“凡不俯伏敬拜的，必立时扔在烈火的窑中。”这是不是设计好让每个人都来敬拜呢？是的，这是世界上有史以来所举行过的最盛大的国际聚会之一。这都是为了尊荣巴比伦王国的尼布甲尼撒。王国里的每一个人都必须承认尼布甲尼撒是主宰，甚至要把他当做神来敬拜。

I was just impressed with a little word: "immediately," in verse six. He doesn't say, "You'd better bow down and worship, and if not, you'll be arrested, you'll go to trial, and after the third or fourth trial, going all the way to the Supreme Court, then you'll be killed." When would they be killed? On the same afternoon that they didn't bow down! That's right. No trial necessary. No appeal. Who is boss? Nebuchadnezzar said, "I am the boss." The Bible says, "Nebuchadnezzar, you're not." There's all kinds of people in the world today who say, "I'm the boss," and the Lord says, "Officially, you're not the boss."

我对第六节里的小词印象深刻，那就是“立时”。他并没有说：“你最好俯伏敬拜；如果不敬拜，就会被逮捕受审，经过两三次审判，一直上诉到最高法院，然后才处死。”他们什么时候会被处死？就在他们不俯伏敬拜的当天下午！没错。根本不需要审判，也没有上诉。谁是主宰？尼布甲尼撒说：“我就是主宰。”圣经却说：“尼布甲尼撒，你不是。”今天世界上有各种各样的人说“我是主宰”，而主说：“实际上，你不是主宰。”

So verse seven: "So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar"—here it is again and again—"had set up." You know what this is all about? Pretty clear, pretty plain. Verse eight: "Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews."

第七节说：“因此各方、各国、说各种语言的人民一听见角、笛、琵琶、琴、瑟和各样乐器的声音，就都俯伏敬拜尼布甲尼撒王所立的金像。”这里一再提到尼布甲尼撒所立的金像。你们都知道这是怎么回事了吧？非常清楚，非常简单。第八节说：“那时，有几个迦勒底人进前来控告犹太人。”

Verse nine to twelve: "They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, 'O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.'"

第九至十二节说：“他们对尼布甲尼撒王说：‘愿王万岁！王啊，你曾下令说：凡听见角、笛、琵琶、琴、瑟和各样乐器声音的，都当俯伏敬拜金像；凡不俯伏敬拜的，必扔在烈火的窑中。现在有几个犹太人，就是王所派管理巴比伦省事务的沙得拉、米煞、亚伯尼歌；王啊，这些人不理你，不侍奉你的神，也不敬拜你所立的金像。’”

Then Nebuchadnezzar was in rage and fury. How do you think he felt? All the chief people from all over the world were there to acknowledge Nebuchadnezzar, that great, great king. Everybody bows down or falls down to worship the image, and these three men are still standing up! How do you think those men felt? It must have been absolutely amazing. Thousands—we have no idea how many, no doubt many thousands of people—all there, and they're all probably prostrate on the ground, and these three men standing up.

当时尼布甲尼撒勃然大怒。你认为他当时是什么感受？所有从世界各地来的首领都在那里承认尼布甲尼撒这位伟大的君王。每个人都跪下或俯伏在地敬拜雕像，唯独这三个人依然站着！你认为这几个人心里是怎么想的？那场景必定令人无比惊奇。成千上万的人——我们不知道确切人数，但无疑有数千人——全都在那里，所有人大概都趴在地上，唯独这三个人昂然挺立。

You think that would have taken courage? What did they think when they went to the Plain of Dura that day? They got out of bed in the morning, and they somehow managed to get themselves over to the Plain of Dura. Standing there, they knew what was coming, and they said, "We are **not** going to worship." We marvel at these men; we have great respect for them.

你觉得这需要勇气吗？那天他们前往杜拉平时是怎么想的？他们早晨起床，以某种方式来到杜拉平原。站在那里时，他们深知将要发生什么，但他们定意说：“我们绝不敬拜。”我们对这些人深感敬佩，对他们怀有极大的敬意。

The Prophetic Parallel

Harold, can I make a little comment? Yes, jump in here for a minute. I was thinking about the reference to Revelation chapter thirteen. There will be a future day where a very, very similar thing will take place. It might not be very far in the future. What we read about Nebuchadnezzar and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego seems very far in the past, but we begin to see something very similar that will happen not too far in the future.

Harold, 我可以作一点补充吗？好的，请讲。我联想到了启示录第十三章的经文。在将来的日子，会有一件非常极其相似的事情发生，而且可能就在不远的将来。关于尼布甲尼撒以及沙得拉、米煞、亚伯尼歌的记载看似是很久以前的事，但我们已经开始看到，极其相似的事情即将在不远的将来发生。

Notice in chapter thirteen of Revelation, verse fourteen. You have two great leaders: the Antichrist and the false prophet. One is the spiritual leader, and one is the political leader.

请看启示录第十三章十四节。那里有两个大首领：敌基督和假先知。一个是属灵领袖，一个是政治领袖。

[Revelation 13:14-17 NKJV]

¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. ¹⁵ He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

第十四节说：“它因给它权柄在兽面前能行奇事，就迷惑住在地上的人，说：要给那受刀伤还活着的兽作个像。”第十五节说：“又有权柄赐给它，叫兽像有生气，并且能说话，又叫所有不敬拜兽像的人都被杀害。”第十六节说：“它又叫众人，无论大小、贫富、自主的、为奴的，都在右手上或是在额上受一个印记。”第十七节说：“除了那受印记、有了兽名或有兽名数目的，都不得作买卖。”

So there's some kind of great image in this future day. But something greater about this image: this image can speak, come to life in some fashion. He was granted power to give life to the image, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image to be killed. He caused all—both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to receive this mark on their hand or on their forehead if they would not worship.

在将来会有这样一个巨大的像。但这个像更奇特的地方在于：它能说话，以某种形式活过来。它有权柄使兽像有生气，使兽像既能说话，又能使所有不敬拜兽像的人都被杀害。它叫众人——无论大小、贫富、自主的、为奴的——都在手上或额上受一个印记，只要他们不肯敬拜。

You know, so often governments create religion that people have to worship, and if they don't worship, there's punishment. We see a similar kind of thing: you have to take courage, have faith, and take a stand if you're a real believer in the Lord Jesus. In a future day, there will be thousands and thousands of people who will not bow down, and they'll be killed and murdered. And it says of them that later on the Lord will resurrect them—the ones who have been killed—resurrect them and honor them, and they'll rule and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Millennial Kingdom.

你知道，政权常常会制造出让人必须去敬拜的宗教，如果不拜就会受到惩罚。我们看到了类似的情形：如果你是主耶稣真正的信徒，就必须拿出勇气，满怀信心，勇敢站立。在将来的日子里，将有成千上万的人拒绝屈膝敬拜，他们会被杀害、殉道。经上论到他们说，主随后要使他们复活——使那些被杀的人复活并尊荣他们，他们要在千禧年国度里与主耶稣基督一同作王掌权。

The Lord honors faith; the Lord honors loyalty and courage when we live for the Lord Jesus. He says He will honor those who honor Him. So we see that in this chapter: we see them standing for the Lord, and the Lord ultimately honoring them. Sometimes the Lord doesn't keep us from suffering, but He keeps us through suffering. That's what we see in this chapter.

当我们为主耶稣而活时，主必看重信心，主必看重忠诚与勇气。祂说祂必尊重那尊重祂的人。我们在这一章中看到了这一点：我们看到他们为主站立，最终主尊荣了他们。有时主并不免除我们的苦难，但祂在苦难中保守我们安然度过。这就是我们在这一章所看到的。

We read down to verse sixteen of Revelation thirteen. Verse seventeen says: "and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Vic, is that logically possible in light of what's going on in China today? It's logical; it's already happening. If you don't follow the government, you can't do anything. Was that true ten years ago? Maybe ten years ago it was really hard to control all the people, but by advanced technology, everyone can be controlled easily.

我们读到了启示录十三章十六节。十七节说：“除了那受印记、有了兽名或有兽名数目的，都不得作买卖。”老王，结合当今中国的情况来看，这在逻辑上是可能的吗？这是合乎逻辑的，而且已经正在发生了。如果你不顺从政府，就什么都做不了。十年前是这样吗？十年前可能很难控制所有人，但凭借先进的科技，每个人都可以被轻易控制。

Vic, would you call that prophecy? Is this verse prophesying what is going to happen, as David says, very soon? So I think we can say this prophecy is being fulfilled in our lifetime, today and tomorrow. I understand that sooner or later, and very soon, there can be a little chip put in you, like a mark in your forehead or in your right hand. That chip will advise anybody who wants to listen, like the government, everywhere you go, everything you say, and everything you listen to. And so if you say, "All I want is a piece of bread," the chip says, "No, you can't have that."

老王，你会称之为预言吗？这节经文是不是在预言大卫所说即将发生的事？因此我认为可以说，这个预言正在我们的有生之年、在今天和明天应验。我明白，迟早——而且很快——人体内可能会植入一个微型芯片，就像额上或右手中的印记一样。那个芯片会向任何想监听的人（如政府）汇报你去过的每一个地方、说的每一句话以及听的每一件事。如果你说：“我只想要一片面包”，芯片就会发出指令：“不行，你买不到。”

I just marvel at all the prophecies that have been fulfilled in my lifetime. It's true, I've lived a little longer than you, but they've been fulfilled one after another—here's one right in the last ten years. Do you believe that Jesus loves you? Why? Because the Bible tells us so.

我对我这一生中应验的所有预言感到惊叹不已。确实，我比大家多活了些年岁，但那些预言一个接一个地应验了——这正是在过去十年里发生的事。你相信耶稣爱你吗？为什么？因为圣经告诉我们确实如此。

With advanced technology, they don't even need a chip. If they have your picture in the computer system and you want to do something, facial recognition scans your face. A few days ago in Seattle, it used to be you had to show your passport; now you walk up to a screen, stand at a certain distance, and it takes your picture. The officer behind the booth says, "Okay, go ahead." They have our picture; that picture knows where we're going, what ticket we have, and where we're coming from. No more showing passports.

凭借先进的技术，他们甚至不需要芯片。如果计算机系统里有你的照片，当你想做某事时，人脸识别系统就会扫描你的脸。几天前在西雅图，过去你必须出示护照；现在你走到屏幕前站定，它拍下你的照片，关口后面的工作人员就说：“好的，过去吧。”他们掌握了我们的照片，通过那张照片就能知晓我们要去哪里、买了什么票、从哪里来，基本不需要出示护照了。

If I pick up my phone and turn it on, what does it do? It takes a picture of me, looks at me, and says, "Oh, I know you," and it unlocks. If I hand my phone to you and you try to turn it on, you can't get it on because it doesn't recognize your face. You remember that I fell outside the front of the chapel a couple of years ago? I went to the hospital and they started working on me. I picked up my phone and held it up, and it wouldn't work—it didn't recognize that bruised face! This is real stuff.

如果我拿过手机点亮它，它会怎么做？它拍下我的照片，辨识我并显示：“噢，我认得你”，然后就解锁了。如果我把手机递给你，你想打开它，却根本打不开，因为它不认得你的脸。你们还记得几年前我在礼拜堂门前摔倒的事吗？我去了医院，医生开始给我处理伤口。我拿起手机对着自己，它居然无法解锁——它认不出那张受伤肿胀的脸了！这都是真事。

Faith in the Midst of the Furnace

Back to Daniel chapter three. We'll pick it up at verse fifteen. Nebuchadnezzar says to these three men:

回到但以理书第三章。我们从第十五节开始。尼布甲尼撒对这三个人说：

[Daniel 3:15-22 NKJV]

¹⁵ Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." ¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰ And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹ Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²² Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.

第十五节说：“你们再听见角、笛、琵琶、琴、瑟，和各样乐器的声音，若俯伏敬拜我所造的像，却还可以；若不敬拜，必立时扔在烈火的窑中，有何神能救你们脱离我手呢？”第十六节说：“沙得拉、米煞、亚伯尼歌对王说：‘尼布甲尼撒啊，这件事我们不必回答你。’”第十七至十八节说：“即便如此，我们所侍奉的神能将我们从烈火的窑中救出来。王啊，祂也必救我们脱离你的手；即或不然，王啊，你当知道，我们决不侍奉你的神，也不敬拜你所立的金像。”第十九至二十二节记载王怒气填胸，吩咐把窑烧热七倍，将他们捆绑扔进窑中，连抬他们的壮士都被烈火烧死。

That's pretty dramatic! What are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego going to do? Verse sixteen: "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter." Basically, in all confidence, they say, "We don't really worry about this, and frankly, we are not concerned about answering you. This is not a big deal to us."

这真是极其富有戏剧性！沙得拉、米煞和亚伯尼歌会怎么做呢？第十六节：“尼布甲尼撒啊，这件事我们不必回答你。”基本上，他们满怀信心地表明：“我们对此毫不忧虑，坦白说，我们也不屑于向你辩解。这对我们来说根本算不得什么大事。”

Why would it not be a big deal? Because they've been through chapters one and two. They've been carried from Jerusalem to Babylon. They've been robbed of everything they owned. They've been deprived of family; they probably watched their family killed around them. Here's the question: Have you survived enough adversity in your life that when the next problem comes, you'll say, "No big deal"? Sometimes you endure problems yesterday in order to be able to face the bigger problem that's going to come tomorrow. If you've got a problem today, you may very well say, "Thank you, Lord! This is preparation so that I'll be able to do what's right when a bigger problem comes tomorrow."

为什么这不是什么大不了的事呢？因为他们已经历过第一章和第二章的考验。他们被从耶路撒冷掳掠到巴比伦，一切所有的都被剥夺净尽。他们失去了亲人，很可能亲眼目睹家人在身旁被屠杀。问题就在这里：你在生命中是否经历了足够的逆境磨炼，以至于当下一次困境临到时，你能坦然说“这没什么大不了”？有时，你昨天承受苦难，正是为了预备你面对明天更大的挑战。如果你今天面临难题，你大可以说：“感谢主！这是预备的阶段，好使我在明天面对更大考验时能够站立得稳，行所当行。”

Verse nineteen is the response of Nebuchadnezzar to their answer: "Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed." What caused him to have such an amazing reaction? The answer of these men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego! This is what they said that made Nebuchadnezzar so mad: "If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

第十九节是尼布甲尼撒对他们回答的反应：“当时尼布甲尼撒怒气填胸，向沙得拉、米煞、亚伯尼歌变了脸色。”是什么引起了如此激烈的反应？正是沙得拉、米煞、亚伯尼歌这几位勇士的回答！正是他们所说的话让尼布甲尼撒勃然大怒：“即便如此，我们所侍奉的神能将我们从烈火的窑中救出来。王啊，祂也必救我们脱离你的手；即或不然，王啊，你当知道，我们决不侍奉你的神，也不敬拜你所立的金像。”

Nebuchadnezzar says, "Who do you think you are? I'm the king! Who are you to talk to me like that?" He got angry, and I think he raised his voice. He didn't bother giving them another try; he didn't say, "You go back to the Plain of Dura, and next time we'll see what happens." He said, "I won't stand for that kind of impudence in my kingdom."

尼布甲尼撒仿佛在说：“你们以为自己是谁？我才是王！你们算什么，竟敢这样跟我说话？”他暴跳如雷，我想他当时一定是声嘶力竭地怒吼。他根本不屑于再给他们一次机会；他没有说“你们回杜拉平原去，下次再看会怎样”。他说：“我绝不容许在我的王国里有这种狂妄傲慢存在！”

So verse nineteen: "He was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach,

Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego."

第十九节再次写道：“当时尼布甲尼撒怒气填胸，向沙得拉、米煞、亚伯尼歌变了脸色，吩咐人把窑烧热，比寻常更加七倍；又吩咐他军中的几个壮士，把沙得拉、米煞、亚伯尼歌捆起来，扔在烈火的窑中。这三个人穿着裤子、袍子、帽子，和别的衣服，被捆起来扔在烈火的窑中。因为王命紧急，窑又甚热，那抬沙得拉、米煞、亚伯尼歌的人都被火焰烧死。”

Would you like to have been one of Nebuchadnezzar's honorable guard? "Do this," he says. They do it, and they get burned up in the process! Who's in charge? God is saying to Nebuchadnezzar, "Nebuchadnezzar, you're not in charge!" What a privilege these three men had to stand before Nebuchadnezzar and say, "No, Your Honor. No, King. We won't do that."

你愿意做尼布甲尼撒手下那些看似显赫的侍卫吗？王说：“去办这事。”他们照办了，结果却在此过程中被活活烧死！到底谁在掌管一切？神在借此对尼布甲尼撒说：“尼布甲尼撒，你不是至高掌权者！”这三个人能够站在尼布甲尼撒面前坚定宣告：“不，王啊，我们绝不遵命”，这是何等伟大的荣耀与特权！

The Fourth Man in the Fire

Now, it's hard to know precisely how this happens. You've got the Plain of Dura over here, you've got the king, and you've got a fiery furnace. Somehow the king gets to watch what's going on. Was there a viewing area right next to the furnace, or was the king so mad that he said, "I'm going to go from my office to the fiery furnace with you; I'm not just going to tell them to burn you, I'm going to be there to make sure you get burnt"?

现在很难确切知道这一切是如何具体发生的。一边是杜拉平原，一边是王，还有一座烈火窑。王以某种方式亲眼目睹着发生的一切。是窑旁边恰好有一个观测区域，还是因为王怒火中烧，以至于说：“我要亲自跟着你们从王座去到火窑边；我不仅要下令烧死你们，还要亲自在场盯着你们化为灰烬”？

[Daniel 3:24-29 NKJV]

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." ²⁵ "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." ²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar went near

the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this."

第二十四至二十五节说：“那时，尼布甲尼撒王惊奇，急忙起来，对谋士说：‘我们捆起来扔在火里的不是三个人吗？’他们回答王说：‘王啊，是。’王说：‘看哪，我见有四个人，并没有捆绑，在火中游行，也没有受伤；那第四个的相貌好像神子。’”第二十六至二十九节记载尼布甲尼撒走近火窑，呼召至高神的仆人出来，所有官员亲眼目睹火无力伤他们身体，连头发衣服都没受损，王遂降旨称颂至高神。

Absolutely amazing! They could see what was going on. We don't understand everything, but I believe on Judgment Day, those who have rejected the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior will see what is going on.

这绝对令人惊叹！他们能够看清正在发生的事。我们无法参透所有奥秘，但我相信在审判之日，那些拒绝接受主耶稣基督为主和救主的人，也将看清届时要发生的一切。

[Luke 13:28 NKJV]

There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out.

经上写道：“你们要看见亚伯拉罕、以撒、雅各，和众先知都在神的国里，你们却被赶到外面，在那里必要哀哭切齿了。”

What a terrible thing to look at what's going on, and if it's good, you say, "I could have been there, but I wouldn't." Or you look around, see all the judgment falling on others, and say,

"I'm next." This was a momentous event in the lives of Nebuchadnezzar, the three men, and all the onlookers.

置身于那样的境地是何等可怕：看着那美好的荣耀，你只能痛惜地说：“我本可以进入那里的，但我却拒绝了”；或者环顾四周，看见惩罚临到别人，只能恐惧地说：“下一个就轮到我了。”无论对尼布甲尼撒、对这三位勇士，还是对所有旁观者而言，这都是一件极其震撼的大事。

How hot was the fire? It killed all the strongest men! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were probably smaller, weaker men by comparison, yet the mighty soldiers perished, while they were walking around inside. Who was with them? Nebuchadnezzar didn't fully know. He said, "Look, there's a fourth man in there, and he is like the Son of God." He didn't truly know what the Son of God looked like, but he had enough spiritual insight to recognize that the One with them was far greater.

那火到底有多烈？它吞噬了军队中最强壮的勇士！相比之下，沙得拉、米煞和亚伯尼歌可能身材更瘦小弱，但身强力壮的士兵被烧死了，他们却在火中自由行走。谁与他们在一起？尼布甲尼撒并不完全明白，他说：“看哪，里面有第四个人，相貌好像神的儿子。”他其实不知道神的儿子长什么样，但他有足够的属灵直觉意识到，与他们同在的那一位极其尊贵伟大。

Do you think he could see that somehow these three men were looking to and blessed by this fourth man? This is all speculation, but do you think maybe they fell down and worshiped that fourth Person, even as they refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's image? We don't know for certain.

你是否认为他能看出这三个人正仰望那第四位并蒙祂赐福？这虽是合理的推想，但想想，他们会不会在火窑中俯伏敬拜那第四位，正如他们断然拒绝俯伏敬拜尼布甲尼撒的兽像一样？我们不能完全确定。

Verse twenty-six: "Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, 'Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here.'" That's a huge change! "Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power."

第二十六节说：“于是，尼布甲尼撒就近烈火窑门，说：‘至高神的仆人沙得拉、米煞、亚伯尼歌出来，上这里来吧！’”这是一个多么巨大的转变！“沙得拉、米煞、亚伯尼歌就从火中出来了。那些总督、钦差、巡抚，和王的谋士一同聚集看这三人，见火无力伤他们的身体。”

I don't think all these officials saw what was going on inside the furnace originally, but when the three came out, they made a public appearance before Nebuchadnezzar and all the leaders. The satraps, administrators, governors, and counselors were all there—maybe a

thousand or more. This thing was not done in secret. And what did they see? "The fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them."

我认为起初并非所有官员都看清了火窑内部的景象，但当他们三人走出来时，却是在尼布甲尼撒和所有领袖面前公开亮相。总督、钦差、巡抚和谋士都在场——也许有一千人甚至更多。这绝非暗中行的事。他们看见了什么？“见火无力伤他们的身体，头发也没有烧焦，衣裳也没有变色，并没有火燎的气味。”

When I was a teenager, we moved into a house that had a hollow brick incinerator in the backyard. Periodically, I would gather twigs or branches from the garden, or trash from the house, and burn them there. Flames would unexpectedly shoot up. Sometimes the flame would flash and singe the hair on the back of my hand. It didn't burn terribly, but it smelled bad. Yet these men were in this ferocious fire, and their hair wasn't burned, not a knuckle singed! What burned up? Only the ropes that bound them when they were thrown in. None of their clothes or hats were affected, and there was not even the smell of fire on them.

我年轻时，我们搬进了一栋后院带有砖砌焚化炉的房子。我常常把花园里的树枝或屋里的杂物拿去在那里烧掉。火苗有时会突然窜上来，偶尔会撩到我手背上的汗毛。虽然伤得不重，但闻起来有一股焦糊的怪味。然而，这几个人置身于如此烈火之中，头发没有烧焦，手上连一根汗毛都没被燎到！烧掉的究竟是什么？仅仅是他们被扔进去时捆绑他们的绳索。他们的衣服、帽子毫发无损，身上甚至连一点火燎的气味都没有。

Has anything like that ever happened in the history of the world before? Have you ever heard of anything like that happening since? No. If you were Nebuchadnezzar, what would you do?

世界历史上此前何曾发生过这样的事？自那以后你可曾听说过世上发生过类似的神迹？绝无仅有。如果你是尼布甲尼撒，你会怎么做？

Nebuchadnezzar's Stubborn Heart

Verse twenty-eight: "Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, 'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego...'" That sounds good, but what would be better? Why didn't he say, "I want that God to be **my** God"? What's the matter with you, Nebuchadnezzar? Are you deaf and blind? He saw all this and confessed: "God sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!"

第二十八节：“尼布甲尼撒说：‘沙得拉、米煞、亚伯尼歌的神是应当称颂的！……’”这听起来很好，但怎样做才更好呢？他为什么不说“我要让这位神成为**我的**神”？尼布甲尼撒，你到底怎么了？你难道执

迷不悟吗？他目睹了这一切，并亲口承认：“祂差遣使者救护倚靠祂的仆人，他们不遵王命，舍去己身，在他们神以外不肯侍奉敬拜别神！”

(Interruption for fire department inspection)

He got it all wrong, didn't he? He called Him the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. What should he have said? He should have acknowledged that God is the God of everything and everyone, the supreme Boss.

（消防部门例行检查插话）他完全本末倒置了，不是吗？他称祂为“沙得拉、米煞、亚伯尼歌的神”。他本该说什么？他本该承认这位神是万事万物和全人类的主宰，是至高无上的主。

Therefore, in verse twenty-nine, he says: "Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this." Of course he's right—there is no other God!

因此，他在第二十九节宣称：“现在我降旨，无论何民、何国、说何种语言的人，谤渎沙得拉、米煞、亚伯尼歌之神的，他必被凌迟，他的房屋必成粪堆，因为没有别神能这样施行拯救。”当然，他说得没错——除祂以外绝无别神！

Here is the quick summary: In chapter one, Nebuchadnezzar noticed that Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were far wiser and more intelligent than anyone else in his kingdom. What did he do at the end of chapter one? Nothing! What's the matter with you, Nebuchadnezzar? Don't you have a brain in your head?

这里作一个简要总结：在第一章中，尼布甲尼撒发现但以理、沙得拉、米煞和亚伯尼歌比他通国的所有人都聪明有智慧得多。在第一章末尾他做了什么？什么都没做！尼布甲尼撒，你到底怎么了？你难道不动脑筋思考吗？

In chapter two, these men told him what he had dreamed and what the dream meant. Had that ever happened before? Has it ever happened since? So what did Nebuchadnezzar do? He said, "I think I'll promote you guys; I could use men like you in my administration." Have you ever met people who respect God because they see that the God of believers is a good God who does good things, yet they still stubbornly pursue what they want? At the end of chapter three, he says, "That's a good God, and make sure nobody speaks against Him."

在第二章中，这几个人告诉了他夜间所做的梦以及梦的解析。这事以前发生过吗？以后可曾再发生过？那么尼布甲尼撒做了什么？他说：“我想提拔你们；我的政府正需要你们这样的人才。”你是否遇到过这种人：他们听说信徒所信靠的神是一位行奇事赐福的美善之神，因而赞许神，但内心深处仍然只顾追求*自己*想要的？在第三章末尾，他说：“那是一位好神，谁也不许说祂的坏话。”

Nebuchadnezzar, why don't you say, "I need that God"? Why didn't you say, "I repent"? Three incredible miracles in his life, and stubborn Nebuchadnezzar remains hardened. Have you ever heard a father say, "Johnny, I want you to do that," and Johnny questions, and the father repeats, "Johnny, I told you to do that"? Is this the end of Nebuchadnezzar's story?

尼布甲尼撒，你为什么不说“我需要这位神”？你为什么不说“我悔改”？一生中经历了三次不可思议的神迹，顽固的尼布甲尼撒依然心蒙脂油。你见过父亲吩咐孩子说“强尼，去把那事做了”，孩子顶嘴，父亲严厉重复“强尼，我命令你去做”吗？这是尼布甲尼撒故事的结局吗？

He refused the first time God spoke to him. He refused the second time. He refused the third time. What did God say to him the fourth time? God said, "Nebuchadnezzar, I have a lesson to teach you. I'm going to let you behave like a wild beast for seven years, and then you will know." Don't make it hard for God to teach you. He will teach you.

神第一次向他说话时，他拒绝了；第二次向他说话时，他又拒绝了；第三次向他说话时，他依然拒绝。第四次神对他说什么？神说：“尼布甲尼撒，我要好好给你上一课。我要让你像野兽一样生活七年，到那时你就会明白到底谁在掌权。”不要顽梗悖逆，让神不得不以严厉的方式来管教教导你；祂若定意教导，你必无可逃避。

Lord, we thank You that You were good to us this morning, good to us at lunch, and good to us this afternoon. Bless us and help us in all that we do. Bring us back tomorrow and bless the work, we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

主啊，我们感谢祢，早晨祢恩待我们，午餐时祢赐福我们，今天下午祢同样厚恩待我们。求祢赐福我们，在我们所行的一切事上帮助我们。求祢保守我们明天平安返回，赐福明天的各项侍奉工作。我们如此祷告乃是奉靠主耶稣基督的圣名。阿们！