



THE DEVOTED LIFE OF DANIEL
“The Fiery Furnace” Daniel 3:1-30

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Life in Babylon was not easy for Daniel and his friends even though they held privileged positions. They were never far from having to reassert their allegiance to the Lord and to demonstrate their distinctives as the incident of the fiery furnace clearly demonstrates.

I. A Convenient “Conversion.” vv. 1-7

- A. Nebuchadnezzar’s response to blessing. 2:47
 - 1. God is a revealer of mysteries—He has provided what I wanted!
 - 2. God is “God of gods”—this requires a re-evaluation of my ideas of deity.
 - 3. God is “Lord of kings”—this demands a recognition of my subservience.
- B. Nebuchadnezzar’s return to old ways. 3:1-7
 - 1. A selective approach to revealed truth.
 - a. “The head of gold” (2:38)—“an image of gold” (3:1).
 - b. The people who “will not remain united” (2:43) must be unified.
 - c. “Peoples, nations...every language” (v. 4)—rolling stone.
 - 2. An instinctive reaction to unacceptable truth.
 - a. The “God of gods” is demoted—the created displaces the Creator.
 - b. Human control supersedes divine sovereignty.

II. A Confident Assertion. vv. 8-23

- A. The success of God’s people provokes jealousy—“Jews whom **you** have set...”
- B. The indifference of God’s people provokes rage—“furious with rage.”
- C. The refusal of God’s people provokes reprisals—“a blazing furnace.”
 - 1. Refusal to worship an idol. See Exodus 20:4-6
 - 2. Refusal to serve other gods—contrast “God of gods.”
- D. The calm of God’s people provokes astonishment—“we do not need to defend.”
 - 1. No need to respond to Nebuchadnezzar’s outrageous question. v. 15
 - 2. No need to answer Nebuchadnezzar’s outrageous threats.
- E. The confidence of God’s people provokes incredulity—“his attitude changed.”
 - 1. Our God is able to save us from your fiery fury.
 - 2. Our God will deliver us from your hand.
 - 3. Even if He doesn’t (hypothetically) we won’t serve you!

III. A Convincing Vindication. vv. 24-30

- A. They are not saved “from” the furnace, but “in” the heat.
- B. They are joined by one who “looks like a son of the gods.”
- C. They “were willing to give up their lives” and God did not desert them.

Points to Ponder: God’s people will always feel the heat, but they don’t have to melt.