

Daniel 3:19-30 – “Fickle People, Unchanging God”

- I. **Fickle People?: “You Betcha!”**
- “Marked by lack of steadfastness, constancy or stability: given to erratic changeableness.”
 - Most people (even Christians) have _____ phobia – fear of missing out on something better.
 - People who do not like making promises, vows or pledges & when do, change their mind...
- II. **Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-nego: Not Your Typical Young Men...**
- Chapter 1 – taken from Jerusalem, entered into 3 year re-education program, name changed...
 - Stood up for convictions – did not want to _____ themselves before their God.
 - God was gracious to them as He showed them great favor...
 - Chapter 2 – face the direct execution order of King Nebuchadnezzar
 - With Daniel, they pray vigorously to God of heaven, requesting His _____.
 - They showed tremendous faith & trust in God – God again shows them great favor...
 - Chapter 3 – Bow down to the image set up by the king or be thrown into fiery furnace
 - Opportunity for all officials of empire to show _____ to the king & his kingdom.
 - As all the others bow down, they do not. Chaldeans inform the king, who is outraged.
 - King gives them one more chance & they _____ it. They appeal to their trust in God...
- III. **King Nebuchadnezzar: He Will Not Be Ridiculed...(Daniel 3:19-21)**
- After this public defiance, the king is determined to squash this act of disobedience.
 - Before throwing them in, he orders furnace to reach maximum heat level & has them bound...
 - His finest warriors execute the order to throw these 3 into the fiery furnace – like _____ of wood...
- IV. **Two Unexpected “Somethings”: (Daniel 3:22-25)**
- 1st – Furnace so hot that the warriors are consumed by the flames flying up...
 - 2nd – _____ men in furnace, walking around, unbound, unharmed, only thing burned – bounding ropes!
 - Fourth man is like the son of the _____ – king recognizes supernatural agent of deliverance...
- V. **The Most High God: (Daniel 3:26-29)**
- As the (only) 3 come out, all see the fire had no effect on bodies, clothes, _____, or even smell!
 - King responds by praising their God for His deliverance & then praises the 3:
 - For courage & fidelity to their own God
 - For _____ his command
 - For being willing to die rather than serve or worship any other god...
 - King sets decree: No people or nation allowed to speak out _____ their God!
 - Do not follow – punishable by torn limb from limb; house reduced to rubbish heap!
 - Reason for Decree: There is no other god who is _____ to deliver as their God did.
- VI. **Overarching Truths – It’s Really About God**
- For 3 chapters: God is able; God is sovereign; God is _____
 - Once again, God has sovereignly overruled the king’s intended punishment...
 - Began as a display of king’s power & worship, ended in display of _____ power & praise!
 - For 3 chapters: Faithful followers of God are rewarded – here, our 3 prosper in Babylon...
 - God, who is able/sovereign, ultimately _____ His faithful servants!
 - Remember, these 3 did have to endure the ordeal of being thrown into furnace...
 - We are promised, not out of trouble/suffering, but God’s _____ in the midst of it...
 - When God does deliver: purpose is that He would be glorified; some saved; own encouraged
 - Better to be in fiery furnace with King _____ than outside the furnace with the king of this world...
- VII. **Connections: Relating Daniel 3 to the Passion Week**
- Nebuchadnezzar like those fickle crowds: excited about miracles but quickly change tune!
 - All those officials like the fickle crowds: Neither group stood firm on convictions;
 - Man-made religions (like of Pharisees) continue to abound until the end (See Rev. ____ & Dan. 3)
 - God triumphs through similarly hopeless situations – Jews in exile & Jesus being led to Cross...
 - God was with our 3 in fiery furnace vs. Jesus went to the Cross..._____.