**Daniel 3: Is it hot in here to you?**

**The book: The Most-High rules in the kingdom of men and He gives it to whomever He wishes**

**Main Idea ch. 3: No other gods before Him**

**The structure of Daniel 2-7: To show the humiliation of the kings of Babylon**

**Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar’s vision: A sketch of prophetic history**

**Daniel 3: Punishment for worshipping the Lord: Fiery furnace**

**Daniel 4: Humiliation of Nebuchadnezzar**

**Daniel 5: Humiliation of Belshazzar**

**Daniel 6: Punishment for worshipping the Lord: Lion’s den**

**Daniel 7: Daniel’s vision: A sketch of prophetic history**

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**The Text**

**1. The Setting 3:1-3**

**2. The Command 3:4-7**

**3. The Report 3:8-15a**

**4. The Challenge 3:15b**

**5. The Response 3:16-18**

**6. The Furnace 3:19-23**

**7. The Miracle 3:24-27**

**8. The Reaction 3:28-30**

**Applications**

**1. A life of faith: All three men said that they believed God would deliver them, but that even if He didn’t they would not bow down. Hebrews 11:32-34 – While it lists two of the victories in the book of Daniel, it also lists many who suffered and gave their lives by faith.**

* + **Not all of the endings on this side are what we would want. But they are still acts of faith and rewarded by God.**
  + **God is able to do whatever He wants to honor Himself.**
  + **Jim Elliott died and God used his death to impact thousands. Others (story of Moby and Arlys) saw miraculous deliverance. Can we trust the Lord when we get “no” or “wait” as well as “yes”?**
* **All acts of God are not as dramatic as this, but we’ve all seen God deliver us and provide for us many times and in many ways.**

**2. Picking their battles carefully: Like chapter 1, these men served a harsh King, went by names of foreign gods, but picked their battles; made sure they were biblical, and when they had to, stopped compromising. This demand from the King involved a direct violation of the Law.**

**3. Idolatry: We may misunderstand what idolatry is. Colossians 3:5-7 tells us covetousness is idolatry. When I put anything above God, it is my idol.**

**Covetousness: eager or excessive desire, especially for wealth or possessions:**

**In Ex. 20:17 and in Col. 3:5, covetousness is a broad term that can involve sexual issues. Covetousness is not seeking the things above, but things of this earth. Like Belshazzar and those with him who worshipped the gods of silver and gold, when we pursue the things of this world and our lives revolve around acquiring them, we are coveting and pursuing idolatry (Heb. 13:5-6; Lk. 12:15; Mk. 10:17-27).**

**4. Prayer: Are you praying?**

**Luke 14:25: No other gods before Him, not even ourselves**