

Christ and Culture
Part Five: When the Heat is On
Daniel 3
May 4, 2025

1. King Nebuchadnezzar commissioned a golden image as a test of devotion for his government officials (Daniel 3:1-7)
Significance: All governments compel behavior. The danger is when they compel devotion.
2. Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah defiance of the king's order provided the perfect opportunity for some wicked officials to try to take them down (Daniel 3:8-12)
Significance: Don't be surprised if people malign you for not being devoted to their 'gods.'
3. Nebuchadnezzar was enraged at their refusal to bend to his authority (Daniel 3:13-15)
Significance: If you live God's truth, you will get pushback.
4. The men refused the king's offer of a second chance (Daniel 3:16-18)
Significance:
 - When you are truly devoted to God, you can stand against the most fearful threats.
 - This type of devotion must be determined ahead of time.
5. God miraculously delivered the men while they were still in the furnace, causing Nebuchadnezzar to decree that no one could speak ill of their God (Daniel 3:19-30)
Significance:
 - One of the most Christ-like things you will ever do is suffer like he did.
 - If you're a believer, the Lord will be with you regardless of the fire.
 - Jesus went through the fire of death for so we could escape eternal death in the fires of hell.