

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

“The Faithful”



“—Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his.” Daniel 2:20.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.”

Daniel 3:16-17

According to many sources, Daniel was among the Jews who were carried off into captivity in Babylon about 2600

years ago. He worked hard and God blessed him. Although he is the best known, we also know his friends – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – whom he did not forget. After a three-year training period in Babylon, Daniel was found to be smarter than all of the skilled magicians and wise astrologers in Babylon, and was appointed as a counselor to King Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel stayed true to God and God gave him the power to interpret dreams, to see into the future, and God gave him a long life. When Nebuchadnezzar asked Daniel for some other good workers, Daniel suggested Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Nebuchadnezzar built an idol and required all the people to worship that idol, but Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused.

Some of the people, who were jealous of the four men, told Nebuchadnezzar they were not worshipping as he had required. He called them, and they told him that they would not worship the idol. He told them that if they did not they would be pitched into a roaring furnace. They answered in defense of their God and told Nebuchadnezzar that if he chose to throw them into a roaring furnace they would be rescued by their God, and even if they weren't they still would not worship his idol.

Nebuchadnezzar ordered the fire to be seven times hotter than usual. Then he had the men tied and thrown into the furnace. But the flames from the furnace reached out and killed the men who had put the Jews in the furnace.



My God's not dead. He's surely alive. He's living on the inside

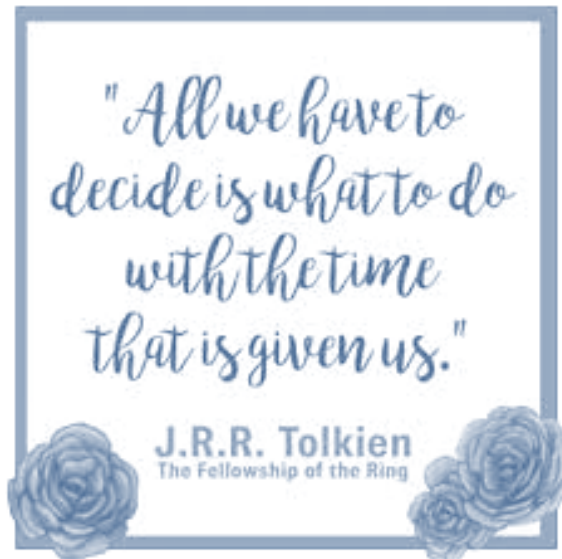
Roaring

Like a lion.

When Nebuchadnezzar saw the men still alive walking around in the fire, he ordered that anyone who said anything against their God would be punished and their homes torn down.

We are not called to this kind of service, but we are called to defend our Lord and his teachings many times. Do we do it, or do we side step the question or comment? These men were strong. They were willing to stand up for their lives to the king, Nebuchadnezzar, knowing it could mean their lives.

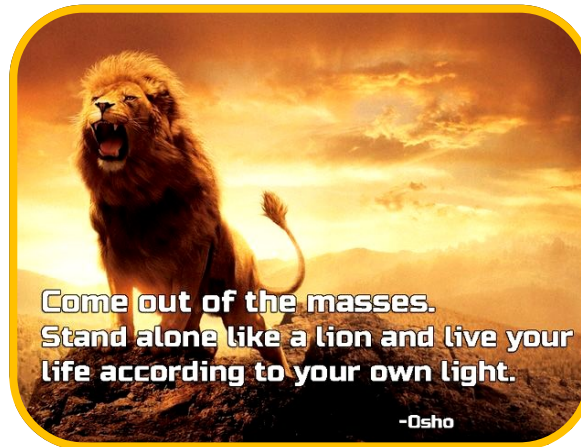
God has promised that He will deliver every man. When my husband was fighting cancer, he kept talking with his doctors about his Great Physician. I thought many times that they thought he was talking about them, but he was talking about the Great Physician that would make him



whole. He knew his God was with him then and still is today where he is healed and whole with his Great Physician.

A traditional Spiritual asks a good question. The song is titled "Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel."

*"Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel,
Deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel?
Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel,
Then why not every man?
He delivered Daniel
From the lion's den,
And Jonah from the belly of the
whale,
And the Hebrew children
From the fiery furnace,
Then why not every man?"*



Prayer: Dear God, we know that You are with us, but we sometimes are not as strong as we should be in defense of all that You have given us. You have not asked us to put our lives on the line, but You do ask us to seek out Your will, so that others may know of Your love and protection. Help us to follow wherever You lead and say what You want us to say. Amen.

1. How can we be called to defend our God today? How strong is our faith as we are facing difficult situations and even death?
2. Are we willing to be made whole on God's terms?
3. Does it depend on the company we are in? Should it?
4. Have you ever felt challenged not to go along with the crowd? To stand alone and be shunned?
5. Are we as strong as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
6. How do the people mentioned in the Spiritual relate to Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

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