

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

“Young Lions”



“—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."
From Daniel 3:16-17

Daniel was among the Jews who were carried off from Judah 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 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. He was an oneirologist, one who studies dreams, long before it was popular. In fact, he was given this ability more than 500 years before Christ.

Daniel was visited by the angel Gabriel twice as God helped him in his work to interpret dream with Nebuchadnezzar. He was afraid when Gabriel came to him. Would you be?

*Have I not
commanded you
Be strong and
courageous.
Do not be
afraid; do not
be discouraged,
for the Lord your
God will be with
you wherever you go.*

JOSHUA 1:9



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In Daniel 8:15-17 we read about one of his visits by Gabriel: *“Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, ‘Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.’ So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, ‘Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end’”* I think I might have reacted just as strongly as Daniel if not stronger and more fearful. But God appears to us today, but not through an angel that comes face to face with us!

Daniel’s faithfulness to God landed him in a lion’s den, where his detractors were sure he would be devoured. But God sent an angel that “shut the lions’ mouths” ([Daniel 6:22](#)), and Daniel was miraculously spared.

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 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 would still 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. 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.

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

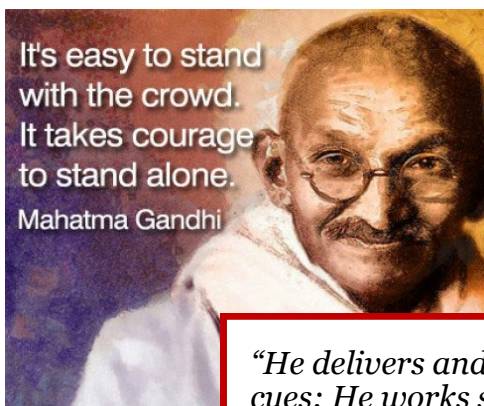
*"Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel,
Deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel?
Didn't my lord deliver Daniel,
Then why not a every man?
He delivered Daniel
From the lion's den,*

*And Jonah from the belly of the whale,
And the Hebrew children
From the fiery furnace,
Then why not every man?*

*I set my foot on the gospel ship and the
ship began to sail
It landed me over on Canaan's shore
and I'll never come back no more.*

*Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, deliver
Daniel, deliver Daniel
Didn't my lord deliver Daniel, then
why not every man."*

Do you believe He will deliver every man. He has promised that to us. The rest is up to us.



*"He delivers and rescues;
He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth,
He who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."
Daniel 6:27*

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?
2. Does it depend on the company we are in? Should it?
3. Have you ever felt challenged not to go along with the crowd? To stand alone and be shunned?
4. Are we as strong as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
5. How do we see their faith through their speaking to the king about their God?
6. How do the people mentioned in the Spiritual relate to Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

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