

# Resisting Pressure

The Golden Image of Nebuchadnezzar and the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1-30

## A. The Image. 3:1-7

1. The builder. 1
2. The substance
3. The dimensions
4. The location. Some thoughts...
  - a. Many unbelievers (and some believers) hear God's message, but they don't listen.
  - b. Opposing God's plans is the sign of a huge ego.
  - c. When people determine to defy God, they usually get committed believers in trouble.
5. Those invited to the dedication. 2-3
6. The signal. 4-5
7. The required action.
8. The penalty for non-compliance. 6
9. The compliance. 7. Some thoughts
  - a. The preceding chapter ended with Daniel and his 3 friends in an enviable, protected setting.
  - b. They all received a huge job promotion.
  - c. Just because things are going well doesn't mean we won't be tested.
  - d. God is in the business of testing and stretching us.
  - e. "The devil tempts us to destroy our faith, but God tests us to develop our faith, because a faith that can't be tested can't be trusted." Warren Wiersbe
  - f. Don't be surprised when tests come. Don't drop your guard!

## B. The Accusation. 3:8-12

1. The accusers - Chaldeans. 8
2. The stipulations. 9-10
3. The penalty. 11
4. The offenders. 12

## C. The Faith of the Accused. 3:13-18

1. The king's fury. 13
2. The king's question. 14
3. The second chance. 15
4. The ultimatum.
5. Their response. 16-18
  - a. No need to defend. 16
  - b. God is able to deliver. 17
  - c. We believe He will.
  - d. If not, 18
    - 1) We won't serve your gods
    - 2) We won't worship your image

## D. Deliverance by God. 3:19-27

1. The king's wrath. 19
2. The king's order.
3. The king's command to his soldiers. 20
4. Cast into the fire. 21
5. Soldiers die. 22
6. Victims fall into the furnace. 23
7. The king's astonishment. 24-25
8. The king's command to come out! 26
9. The officials examine the trio. 27

## E. Honoring God. 3:28-30

1. The king blessed God. 28
2. God had sent His angel.
3. God had delivered His servants
4. The king made a decree. 29
5. The king promoted the trio
6. Some thoughts
  - a. Most people in this world are willing to compromise their core principles to save their skin.
  - b. What about you?
  - c. Do you have the courage to resist pressure?
  - d. What pressure do you need to start resisting today?

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2. Some thoughts #2
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## B. The Accusation. 3:8-12 Some thoughts #3

- a. If you are committed to following God, someone in your life will jump at the chance to make life hard for you.
- b. Remember, your real enemies are not people. They are demons. (Eph. 6:12)
- c. You better use your full armor! (Eph. 6:13)

## C. The Faith of the Accused. 3:13-18. Some thoughts #4

- a. These three men were not addicted to living.
- b. You are only as strong as your most powerful addiction.
- c. To what are you addicted?

## D. Deliverance by God. 3:19-27. Some thoughts #5

- a. You can never dictate to God the way He must deliver you.
- b. The method and extent of deliverance is God's business, not ours.
- c. If deliverance were always the way we wanted, we would never get sick, never age, and never die.

## E. Honoring God. 3:28-30. Some thoughts #6

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  - d. God is in the business of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ us.
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