

# *“Pressure-Resistant Faith”*

## **Daniel 3:1-18**

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

September 11, 2022

### Introduction

- As Christians, we are not immune to suffering.
  - 1 Peter 4:12-- *“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you.”*
- Living today, we face...
  - Temptations to COMPROMISE our beliefs and convictions
  - COERCION—extreme pressure to conform or else
- The Need for a *“Pressure-Resistant Faith”*

## *“Pressure-Resistant Faith”*

### A. The CAUSES of the Pressure Build-up

#### 1. The PROMOTION of Daniel and his three friends

- Daniel 2:46-49-- *“Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.” Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.”*
- a. The acknowledgment of Daniel’s God
  - b. The promotion of Daniel and his three friends.

#### 2. The PRIDE of Nebuchadnezzar

- Daniel 3:1-7-- *“Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then a herald cried aloud: “To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.” So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.”*
- a. Time lapse between chapters 2 and 3
  - b. Erection of the huge statue of Gold, representing the king’s plan for the future, defying the God of Israel’s plan.
    - Isaiah 40:19-- *“The workman molds an image, the goldsmith overspreads it with gold, and the silversmith casts silver chains.”*

- c. Summoning the “Who’s Who” to attend the dedication and commanding them to bow in worship or forfeit their lives.
  - Daniel 3:2-3-- *“And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.”*
  - Daniel 3:4-6 -- *“Then a herald cried aloud: “To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.”*
- d. Everyone bows, well almost everyone!
  - Daniel 3:7-- *“So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.”*

### 3. The **PROTEST** of the Three and the **PREJUDISM** of the Chaldeans

- Daniel 3:8-12-- *“Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews. They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

### 4. The **PIQUE** of Nebuchadnezzar

- Daniel 3:13-15-- *“Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. So they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”*

## B. **Five CHARACTERISTICS** of “**Pressure-Resistant Faith**”

- Daniel 3:16-18 -- *“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

### 1. **Settled Conviction**-- Daniel 3:16

- a. Their convictions were based on the Word of God.
  - Deuteronomy 6:4-5-- *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”*
  - Exodus 20:3-- *“You shall have no other gods before me”*
  - Exodus 20:4-6-- *“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”*

- b. Our faith needs to be anchored in the Word of God
- Ephesians 4:14-- *"no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting."*
2. **Realistic** -- Daniel 3:17a--*"If that is the case"* that is, *"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace"*
3. **Believes God can do the impossible but does not presume that He will.**
- Daniel 3:17-18-- *"If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."*
4. **Believes in God's Ultimate Deliverance**-- v. 17b *"And He will deliver us from your hand, O king"*
- 2 Timothy 4:16-18-- *"At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!"*
5. **Committed to God no matter what.**
- Daniel 3:18-- *"But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."*
  - Acts 20:24-- *"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."*