

A scenic landscape featuring a lone, dark green tree standing on a grassy hill. The background shows rolling hills and a soft, hazy sky with light blue and white clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

GOD'S PROMOTION WILL TEST YOUR DEVOTION

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**We continue the story of Daniel,
Hananiah, Mishaël and Azariah**

Where we left off, their promotion in King Nebuchadnezzar's court placed them above the sorcerers / magicians / astrologers in the royal palace.

- they had been blessed for standing firm in their convictions
- they found favor in the king's eyes
- they would soon find themselves in life or death situations because of their promotions

**WHAT PROMOTION IN YOUR
LIFE HAS PLACED YOU IN PERIL?**

Daniel 2:1-8 describes the king troubled by dreams he is having

- calls on the magicians and sorcerers to reveal and interpret the dream
- the Bible uses the term Chaldeans (kasdim) who were the leading occult advisors that studied astrology and horoscopes
- their false gods couldn't give them the answers the king was looking for

Daniel 2:9-11 King James Version

9 But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof.

10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.

11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S
CAPACITY FOR EXTREME VIOLENCE!!**

**HE KILLED KING ZEDEKIAH'S SON IN FRONT
OF HIM AND GOUGED OUT HIS EYES!!**

(JEREMIAH 39)

**The men confess they can't do what
they king asks, and say that no king has
ever made such demands**

**ISN'T IT FUNNY THAT NON-
BELIEVERS CAN'T PROVE THEIR
“god”
EXISTS WHEN IT MATTERS?**

**BUT THEY WILL COME TO YOU AND YOUR
GOD TO HELP SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS!!!!**

Leviticus 19:31 King James Version

31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God.

Isaiah 8:19-20 King James Version

19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Micah 5:12 King James Version

**12 And I will cut off witchcrafts out of
thine hand; and thou shalt have no
more soothsayers**

Daniel 2:12-13 King James Version

12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

**The angry king calls for mass execution of all
wise men, including Daniel and his friends**

**THEIR PROMOTION HAS PUT THEM IN A
LIFE OR
DEATH SITUATION!!!**

WITHOUT THEM EVEN REALIZING IT!!!

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND?

HOW DOES DANIEL RESPOND!!!

Daniel 2:14-18 King James Version

14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

**Notice how the Bible says Daniel answered
“with counsel and wisdom”**

→ he stayed cool, calm and collected under fire

**DANIEL, HANANIAH, MISHAEL AND AZARIAH
HAVE INTERCESSARY PRAYER**

**TO ASK GOD FOR
HELP!!!!**

Mark 11:24 King James Version

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

John 14:13-14 King James Version

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

Deuteronomy 4:29 King James Version

29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

God reveals the secret of the king's dream, and Daniel praises and thanks God for his wisdom and blessings over the next few verses

**DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS CRIED OUT
TO GOD FOR WISDOM, AND THAT IS
EXACTLY WHAT GOD GAVE THEM!!!**

Also, notice that Daniel takes time to praise and worship God before going to see the king

Daniel 2:24 King James Version

24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.

Daniel 2:27-30 King James Version

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

Daniel tells the king point blank that his advisors do not have the knowledge that he is seeking

**There is a God in heaven who can,
and he alone is responsible for
revealing secrets and mysteries**

**PEOPLE WHO DONT TRUST IN GOD
FIND THAT HE'S NOT ENOUGH.....**

**BUT PEOPLE THAT DO TRUST IN GOD
FIND THAT HE IS MORE ENOUGH!!!!**

The prayer meeting of Daniel and his friends became a praise meeting

- God answered their prayers that night, and lives were spared**
- their lives became a living testimony to everyone**

Daniel 2:47-49 King James Version

47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.

49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

**Notice the king's statement doesn't
necessarily mean he believed
Jehovah as the one true God**

WHAT IS THE OUTCOME??

- Daniel is promoted (again!) as ruler of the province of Babylon
- At Daniel's request, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah are promoted (again!) as administrators over the province of Babylon

**NO WISE MEN WERE KILLED!!! EVEN THE
UNBELIEVERS WERE SPARED!!**

**THIS WAS THE 1ST EXAMPLE OF GOD'S
PROMOTION TESTING THEIR DEVOTION**

WHAT WAS THE 2ND?

Daniel 3:1-2 King James Version

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

Daniel 3:3-7 King James Version

3 Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4 Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,

5 That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

6 And whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

7 Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

**When the royal band plays, everyone must
bow down and worship the statue**

NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

**Those who disobeyed faced
a fiery furnace death**

**AT THIS POINT, REMEMBER THE PRIVILEGED,
PROMOTED POSITIONS OF DANIEL
AND
HIS FRIENDS??**

**WE ARE ABOUT TO SEE ONE OF THE SIDE
EFFECTS OF GOD'S PROMOTION IN
THEIR/OUR LIVES**

Daniel 3:8-12 King James Version

8 Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

9 They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

10 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

11 And whoso falleth not down and worshippingeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

**The “Chaldeans” resurfaced
again, the same men who have
been passed over for promotion**

**Notice how they specifically mention to the king
“certain Jews”?**

- their prejudice and racism on full display here**
- how long had they schemed and plotted to get rid of Daniel and his friends?**
- they conjure up charges of treason against Hananiah, Mishaekl and Azariah**

**ONCE AGAIN,
GOD'S PROMOTION IS TESTING
THEIR DEVOTION!!!**

Daniel 3:13-16 King James Version

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

**The king questions them face to face, and
has the royal band play again to test them**

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND?

Ephesians 6:16 King James Version

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith,
wherewith ye shall be able to quench
all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Psalm 37:5 King James Version

5 Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Psalm 34:22 King James Version

22 The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Daniel 3:16-18 King James Version

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 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 thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

**These men would serve the king but NEVER
worship him**

THOSE WHO STAND TALL MAY BE HATED BY ALL

Daniel 3:19-23 King James Version

19 Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20 And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

**The king's rage, a quick order to throw the men
into the 7x hotter furnace**

- The fire is so hot it kills the king's guards,
dropping the bound men into the furnace**
- This furnace was evidently large enough for
3 grown men to stand up and walk inside of it**

**THE CHALDEANS THOUGHT THEY HAD KILLED
THESE FOREIGNERS WITH FIRE**

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR THOUGHT HE HAD
KILLED THE TRAITORS WITH FIRE**

WHAT THEY DIDN'T KNOW IS.....

**THOSE WHO STAY DEVOTED TO GOD
ALWAYS HAVE HIM WITH US IN THE FIRE!!!!!!**

James 1:12 King James Version

12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 King James Version

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

Philippians 1:27 King James Version

27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Daniel 3:24-25 King James Version

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

**THE FIRE ONLY BURNED OFF THE ROPES
THAT BOUND THEM!!!!**

**STAYING COMMITTED TO GOD WILL FREE
YOU OF THE ENEMIES SHACKLES!!!**

Daniel 3:26-29 King James Version

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said,
Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and
delivered his servants that trusted in him, and
have changed the king's word, and yielded their
bodies, that they might not serve nor worship
any god, except their own God.

29 Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

**This is the 2nd time Nebuchadnezzar
confess the name of the Lord**

Look at how the narrative is completely flipped

→ he issues a decree for death to anyone speaking against Jehovah

Daniel 3:30 King James Version

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.

**HANANIAH, MISHAEL AND AZARIAH
ARE
PROMOTED AGAIN!!!**

FOR A 3RD TIME!!!

**WE NOW HAVE SEEN IN THE STORIES
OF DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS OF HOW
GOD'S PROMOTION TESTED THEIR
DEVOTION MULTIPLE TIMES**

ARE YOU FACING A FIERY TRIAL TODAY?

HAVE YOU COMPROMISED YOUR FAITH?

HAVE YOU TOLD YOURSELF.....

HAVE YOU TOLD YOURSELF.....

**EVERYONE ELSE IS DOING IT SO
WHY NOT ME?**

**I'LL LOSE MY JOB IF I DON'T,
SO I HAVE TO RIGHT?**

**I'LL LOSE MY FRIENDS/CO-
WORKERS IF I DON'T,
SO I HAVE TO RIGHT?**

**MY FAMILY WON'T EVER KNOW,
RIGHT?**

**GOD REWARDS THOSE WHO ARE
FAITHFUL TO HIM!!!!**

**THE LORD WILL ALWAYS BE TRUE
AND NEVER LEAD YOU DOWN
A PATH OF DESTRUCTION!!**

**GOD'S PROMOTION WILL
TEST YOUR DEVOTION!!**

**EXPECT AND KNOW THAT GOD
WILL COME THROUGH FOR YOU!!!**



GOD'S PROMOTION
WILL TEST YOUR DEVOTION

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