

Lesson 10: Another In The Fire

By faith, Christians can stand firm when tempted to compromise.

(BOOK OF DANIEL)



Study at a Glance: The 5 W's

KEY AREA	DETAILS AND SUMMARY
WHO (Author & Audience)	
WHAT (Core Message)	
WHEN (Timing)	
WHERE (Location)	
WHY (Rationale)	

Introduction: Whether one is a believer or not, temptation is ever-present in life. It is all around us just as the air is. Each of us has the ability to make a choice to either resist or yield to those temptations. At the heart of this lesson, the temptation is whether to compromise in order to fit in and avoid consequences or deny thyself and take the risk that comes with standing on your faith.

Key Terms Defined

TERM	ORIGINAL WORD in Greek	DEFINITION (Contextual)
Majesty Worship	<i>megalōsynē</i> <i>proskuneo</i>	
Fury Pride Decree	<i>diatagma / dogma</i>	Intense, unrestrained, and violent anger or rage. It represents an extreme, often uncontrollable emotional state or a wild, dangerous force of nature. A feeling of honor and self-respect; a sense of personal worth.
Possible design of King Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace.	Possible design & look of King Nebuchadnezzar's statue decreed for all to worship or face execution. (Dan 3: 5-6) 90 feet high x 9 feet wide	Grundy Towers in Bristol, Pa. is 186 feet tall , about double the height of King Nebuchadnezzar's statue.



SECTION 1: Pressured to compromise

(Read Daniel 3: 1-15)

There is strength in numbers and power in unity, especially when a proven leader is present. In this chapter we see that Daniel's three friends were able to resist extreme pressure despite clear and present risk to their lives. They did this while Daniel was absent which is a clear indicator of their faith posture and refusal to compromise.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis:** In chapter 2, the King's dream consisted of a statue made of multiple materials including a combination of iron and clay. Daniel interpreted the king's dream, explained the meaning of the materials yet, he decided to build a huge statue made of gold. What are your thoughts about his decision to build that statue?
2. Previously in chapter 2:47, the king stated that Daniel's God is "a God of gods and a Lord of kings." But in chapter 3:5-6, he demanded that his giant statue be worshiped by all or they would suffer grave consequences. What are your thoughts about his actions?
3. **Application:** The pressure of compromise was intense on the Hebrew boys. In what ways does today's society pressure Christian's to compromise and what do you think is the greatest compromising threat for the body of believers?

SECTION 2: Standing in faith

(Read Daniel 3:16-18)

Every decision we make has an outcome or consequence for that decision. Daniel and his friends made a firm decision to stand for God and no other. All of their confidence was in God's ability to deliver them out of trouble and they were willing to accept the fact that God may not deliver them and that still would not have changed their minds.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis:** The magnitude of idolatry in Babylon was beyond measure. King Nebuchadnezzar wasn't the first to deny God. Many have a seared conscience and cannot accept the truth of God. How can we demonstrate that God is real in a world of doubt?
2. If you had to describe King Nebuchadnezzar after reading chapter 3:13, how would you describe him?
3. **Application:** In chapter 3:18, the young men made a bold statement to the king. What does that statement tell you about their confidence in God while facing danger?

SECTION 3: Only God can miraculously rescue

(Read Daniel 3:24-27)

If the phrase "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" ever mattered, this was the time. It is important for us as believers to never doubt that God will never abandon his people in their time of need. He proved this for the Hebrew boys while they were inside the fiery furnace. This was to the king's amazement, but we as believers should not be surprised when God shows up for us.

Discussion Quest

1. The intensity of the bondage and fire the king ordered were done during his fit of rage. A fury that could not be tamed. Was there ever a time you felt directly attacked or faced persecution of any kind based on your beliefs?
2. What was your biggest take away from chapter 3?

Conclusion: There is no God but God. No powers or authority we will ever face on earth can contend with Him, especially when it comes to his children. The same God that was in the fiery furnace with the Hebrew boys is able to show up for us in our time of need.