



**DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH – Part 14**  
**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**  
**Stand for Your Convictions in a Culture of Compromise**

**New Horizon Church    October 1, 2023    Pastor John Raymond**

**1. Don't let the world \_\_\_\_\_ you.**

**Daniel 1:6-7 (NLT)**, “<sup>6</sup> Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen, all from the tribe of Judah. <sup>7</sup> The chief of staff renamed them with these Babylonian names: Daniel was called Belteshazzar. Hananiah was called Shadrach. Mishael was called Meshach. Azariah was called Abednego.”

**1 John 2:15-17 (NLT)**, “<sup>15</sup> **Do not love this world nor the things it offers you**, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. <sup>16</sup> For the world offers only a craving for **physical pleasure**, a craving for **everything we see**, and **pride in our achievements and possessions**. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. <sup>17</sup> And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who **does what pleases God** will live forever.”

**2. Don't let the culture \_\_\_\_\_ you.**

**Daniel 1:8 (NLT)**, “But Daniel was **determined not to defile himself** by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods.”

**Daniel 1:17-20 (NLT)**, “God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams. <sup>18</sup> When the training period ordered by the king was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup> The king talked with them, and **no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah**. So, they entered the royal service. <sup>20</sup> Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them **ten times more capable** than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom.”

**Daniel 3:1-7 (NLT)**, King Nebuchadnezzar made a **gold statue ninety feet tall and nine feet wide** and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. <sup>2</sup> Then he sent messages to the high officers, officials, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the provincial officials to come to the **dedication of the statue** he had set up. <sup>3</sup> So all these officials came and stood before the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.” <sup>4</sup> Then a herald shouted out, “People of all

\_\_\_\_\_ races and nations and languages, listen to the **king's command!** <sup>5</sup> When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments, **bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue.** <sup>6</sup> Anyone who refuses to obey will immediately be thrown into a blazing **furnace.** <sup>7</sup> So at the **sound** of the musical instruments, all the people, whatever their race or nation or language, **bow** to the ground and **worshiped the gold statue** that King Nebuchadnezzar had set.”

**3. Refuse to \_\_\_\_\_ your faith.**

**Daniel 3:8-12 (NLT)**, “<sup>8</sup> But some of the astrologers went to the king and informed on the Jews. <sup>9</sup> They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “Long live the king! <sup>10</sup> You issued a **decree requiring all the people to bow down and worship the gold statue** .... <sup>11</sup> That decree also states that those who refuse to obey must be thrown into a blazing furnace. <sup>12</sup> But there are some Jews - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego - whom you have put in charge of the province of Babylon. They pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They **refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue** you have set up.” ... <sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, **we do not need to defend ourselves before you.** <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the **God whom we serve is able to save us.** He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. <sup>18</sup> **But even if he doesn't**, we want to **make it clear to you**, Your Majesty, that we will **never serve your gods or worship the gold statue** you have set up.”

**4. Trust God for the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Daniel 3:28-30 (NLT)**, <sup>28</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him. **They defied the king's command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.** <sup>29</sup> Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. **There is no other god who can rescue like this!**” <sup>30</sup> Then the king **promoted** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even **higher positions** in the province of Babylon.”

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