



1

What this message is about

God allows his people to be tested. But he can, and sometimes will, intervene in miraculous ways responding to the faith of his children in order to reveal himself to those who do not believe.

2

Purpose of this message

To encourage robust and fearless confidence in God regardless of short-term results.

3

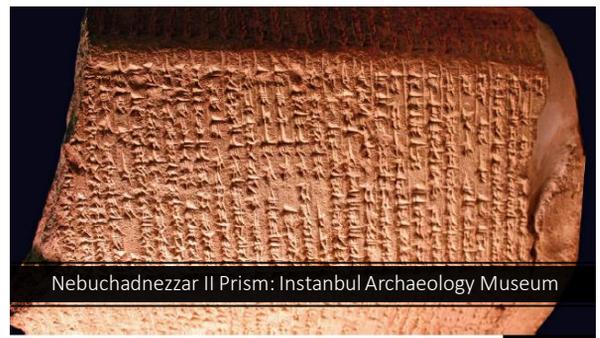
Purpose of this message

And to apply the gospel when we fail.

4

1. God allows faith to be tested.

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Daniel 3:13-15
Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king.

12

14 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?"

13

15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.

14

And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

- Daniel 3:13-15 ESV

15

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.

16

13 Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.

1Pet. 4:12-13 NLT

17

2. When tested, remember who you are.

18

Daniel 13:12

There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

19

These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

- Dan. 2:12 ESV

20

1 John 3:1-3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

21

² Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

22

3. Faith values God above all and allows God to determine outcomes.

23

Daniel 3:16-18

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

24

17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

25

18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

- Dan. 3:16-18 ESV

26

4. God is ready to demonstrate his power through his people to an unbelieving world.

27

Daniel 3:24-25, 28-30

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?”

28

They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵ He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.” . . .

29

Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him, and set aside the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

30

Therefore, I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way."

31

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

- Dan. 3:24-25, 28-30 ESV

32

5. Failure need not be fatal. Apply God's grace and grow

33

Matthew 26:75

And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

34

Acts 5:27-32

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "

35

Acts 5:27-32

"We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered,

36

Acts 5:27-32

We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

37

Acts 5:27-32

And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

38

Next Step:

Have you been tempted to sell out your faith in God because of fear or to get something that helps you feel more secure?

39

Next Step:

Remember that you are a child of God and that he is fully able to take care of you and that he will respond to your trust in him.

40