



13 November

Daniel 3:1-18



<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel%203:1-18&version=NKJV>

Trial in the fire



Nebuchadnezzar had just recognised that Daniel’s God is the “God of gods and Lord of kings” (chapter 2:47), yet the next chapter reports how the king wants to be worshipped himself. He has a golden statue built, around 30 metres high; those who don’t worship it should be burnt alive. That way, he wants to prove to all nations in his massive empire that he is the almighty ruler over life and death.

The three Jews, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who have meanwhile been promoted in the government of the province of Babylon, are accused because they don’t worship the statue. When Nebuchadnezzar asks them the presumptuous question “Who is the god who will save you from my hands?” they give a courageous answer which shows their faith.



- 11. What is their answer? Try to put it into your own words.
- 12. Is it right for them not to obey the command of the ruler Nebuchadnezzar?



The third of the four empires is the Greek empire, which was at its widest expansion under the Macedonian Alexander the great. Alexander, among other things, was able to break Persian rule at the battle of Issos (333BC), take over the immense empire within not much more than 10 years and even increase it. When he died without a successor, his generals fought amongst themselves and the empire was divided into four parts.



God is the highest authority, higher than any human being. Allow Him to rule your life.



11. Suggestion: Whether God will save us or not, is not up for debate – we won’t serve your gods. We are convinced that He will save us, but that’s not the point: You must know that we will never worship your image. 12. Yes, certainly. Of course, we must obey governments and authorities (Romans 13:1ff). But if they demand something that is directly against God’s will, we must obey God more (Acts 5:29). That’s the case here.