



HOPE IN THE RUINS: How to Stand Strong When Culture Bows

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Mount Paran North

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ So all these officials came and stood before the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁴ Then a herald shouted out, "People of all races and nations and languages, listen to the king's command! ⁵ 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. ⁶ Anyone who refuses to obey will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

Daniel 3:1-6 NLT

1. Know When the Moment Matters

⁵ "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. ⁶ Anyone who refuses to obey will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

Daniel 3:5-6 NLT

Not every hill is worth dying on, but there are some lines we refuse to cross.

2. Refuse to Let Fear Make the Decision

"I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?"

Daniel 3:15 NLT

Courage is not the absence of fear – it's refusing to let fear become your god.

3. Trust God Without Trying to Control God

¹⁷ "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. ¹⁸ 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."

Daniel 3:17-18 NLT

Real faith does not say, "God must do what I want." Real faith says, "God is still God whatever happens next."

4. Look for God in the Place You Fear

²⁴ But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?" ... ²⁵ "Look!" Nebuchadnezzar shouted. "I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!"

Daniel 3:24-25 NLT

Sometimes the place you feared most becomes the place where you discover God most deeply.

²⁸Then 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. ²⁹Therefore, 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!"

Daniel 3:28-29 NLT

The God who meets you in the fire can use your faithfulness to help somebody else see Him.