

# Memory Verse

## Daniel 3:17-18

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. But if not, [*even if He doesn't*] be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”





Even if You  
Don't....

A dark, grayscale image of an open book with text overlaid. The book is open, showing two pages with faint, illegible text. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights, creating a somber and contemplative atmosphere. The text is centered and written in a white, serif font.

*Will I trust God in  
the situation?*

The time is about 585 BC. Babylon destroyed Solomon's Temple and Jerusalem, and took captives for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. About *20 years prior to Daniel 3*, Daniel, Hannaniah, Azariah and Mishael, were taken as captives to Babylon. They have been in Babylon, away from home for many years. King Nebuchadnezzar had a great statue built and overlaid with gold. When the orchestra sounded, everyone was to bow and worship this gold idol.



## *Daniel 3:8-18*

Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews.

9They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! 10You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. 11And whoever does not fall

down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. 12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 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.”

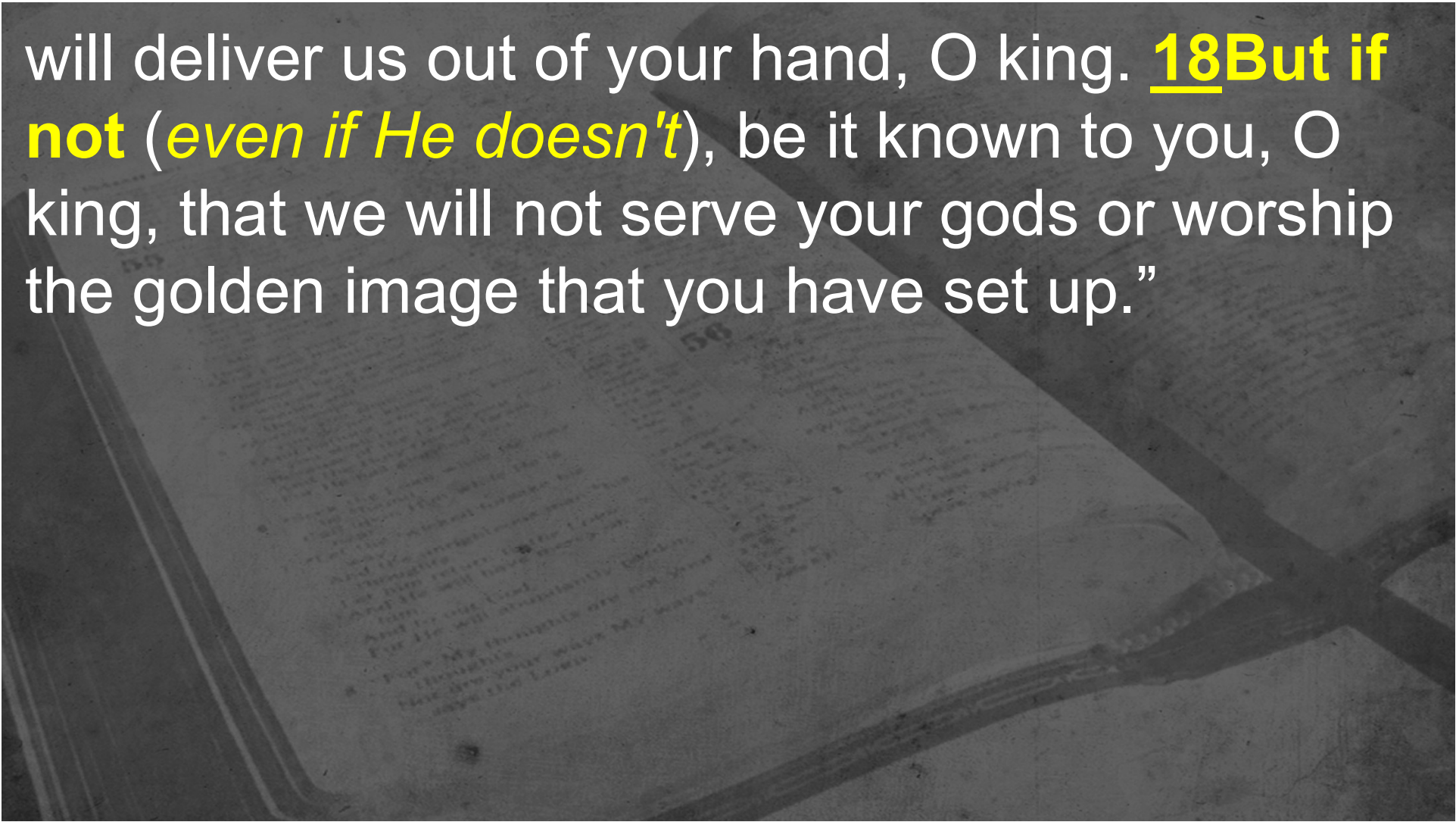
13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and

Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. 14Nebuchadnezzar 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? 15Now 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. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”

16Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17If 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. **18** **But if not** (*even if He doesn't*), be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

## A. 3:1-11 – The Dilemma

The king declared everyone was to *worship this image*. For the Jews in captivity, they had a choice: *Will we obey God's word and trust Him, or not?* In the **10 Commandments**, God told Israel not to bow and worship an idol: *Exodus 20:4-6*. This was a **dilemma**! The chosen nation was in captivity, in a pagan land, and told by the authorities to worship a false god. Sadly, *most of them bowed down before this idol*.

## B. 3:12-18 – The Decision

*3 chose not to bow down to this idol. They chose not to disobey God, but to obey and trust Him. They told the king, the most powerful man in the world at that time, they would not bow before his image, nor worship the gods (the false gods) of Babylon.*



## B. 3:12-18 – The Decision

They were respectful, but said they didn't need to answer the king on this matter. They *didn't have to give an in depth reason or explanation* as to their decision, nor did they need to pray about it. They already determined **not** to partake of pagan worship. They told him **their God** was able to deliver them *from the furnace*, and *He will deliver them from the king's hand*. In other words: "*Our God is greater than your hand O king.*"



## C. 3:19-25 – The Deliverance

He was **beyond furious!** He was the king! He was the most powerful man in the world! Who were these 3 Jews to deny and disobey his command! Yet, that's *exactly what they did*. He had the furnace heated 7 times hotter than usual. It was so *hot*, the men who brought Daniel's 3 friends, died. They were *cast into this hot fire*, tied up. Then *something happened...*

## **C. 3:19-25 – The Deliverance**

*Romans 13 and more tells Christians to follow what your government says. In Acts, the disciples were forbidden by the religious leaders to preach in the Name of Jesus.*

**No matter where we live, or what government we live under, we should respect, pray for and obey what the leaders say, *unless they forbid something God commands, or encourage something God forbids.***

## D. 3:26-30 – The Declaration

3:26-30 - Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. 27 And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together and saw that



## D. 3:26-30 – The Declaration

the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. 28

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

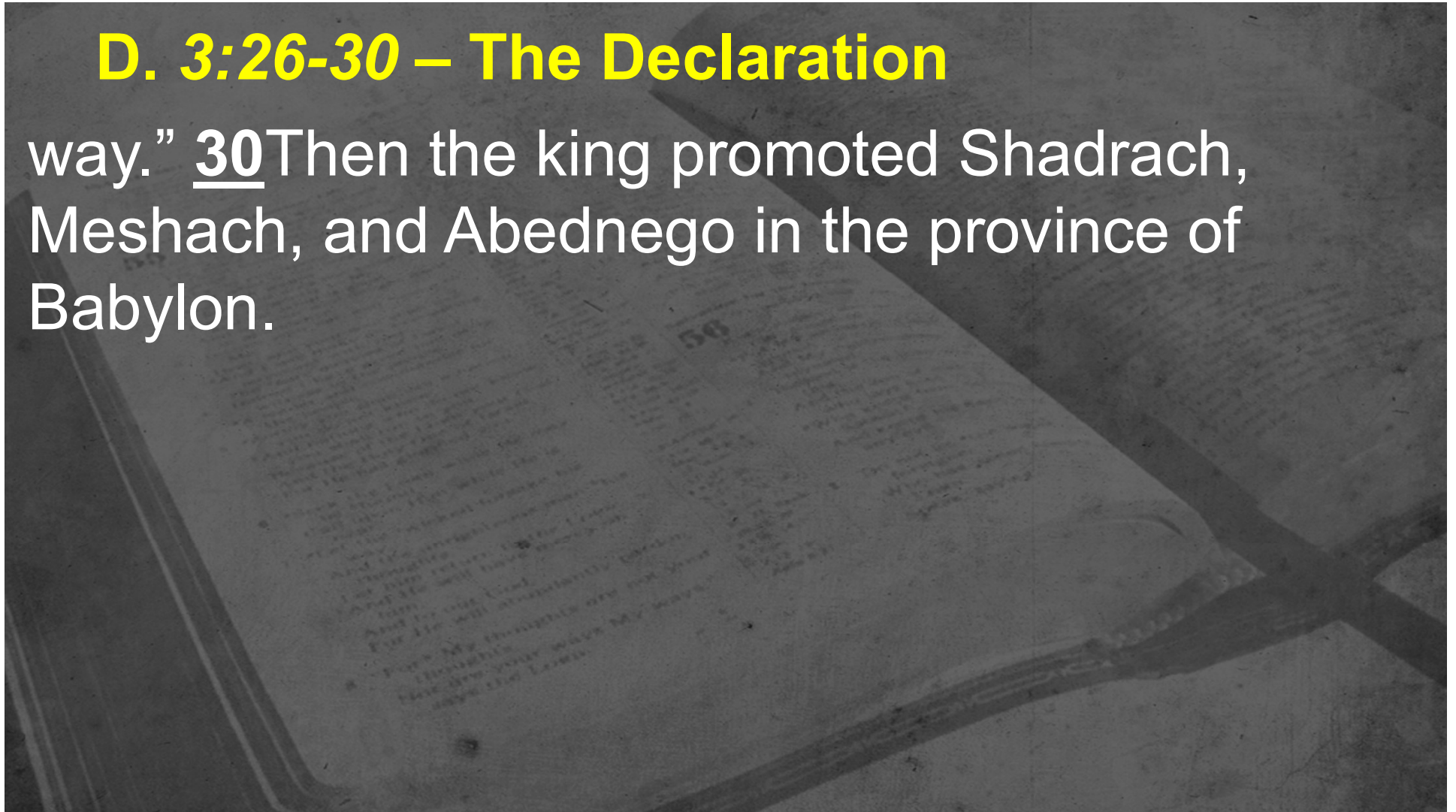


## D. 3:26-30 – The Declaration

aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. 29Therefore 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

## D. 3:26-30 – The Declaration

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



## D. 3:26-30 – The Declaration

They were faithful to the Lord and He was faithful to them. There was not even the hint of the smell of smoke on them.

They were *in the fire* and not a hair of their head was singed and none of their clothes smelled like smoke. All the pagan leaders saw what happened!



## D. 3:26-30 – The Declaration

I will give 3 *scenarios* and ask us what we would pray and what we would say, *even if God doesn't rescue us or provide the way we hope He does*. We know God is good and powerful. We know He can rescue and does at times. **But our struggle in life comes when He doesn't rescue us**. At that moment, we have a choice. **Will we trust Him by faith and do what is right and do what He says or not**. It is a test of faith.



The background of the slide is a dark, grayscale photograph of an open book. The pages are filled with text, which is mostly illegible due to the low contrast and shadows. The book is open, showing two pages on either side of a central spine. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows and some highlights on the paper's texture.

**Example 1**

**Example 2**

**Example 3**