

“THRIVING IN TRYING TIMES” Series

Message #3 of 6

“When The Odds Are Stacked Against You”

*God is worthy of worship and service
because He fights for, guards, guides and protects
His children no matter the circumstances.*

Daniel 3:8-18

July 15, 2018

What is at stake in Daniel chapter 3?

Who you worship and serve.

- **“Worship”** – 11 times in Daniel 3 (v.5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15a, 15b, 18, 28)
- **“Serve”** – 5 times in Daniel 3 (v.12, 14, 17, 18, 28)

1. ODDS ARE: YOUR FAITH WILL BE TESTED – (v.1-7)

“O peoples, nations and men of every language ... whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” – v.4, 6

“Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” – 1st Peter 3:12

2. ODDS ARE: YOU WILL BE THE RECIPIENT OF MALICIOUS DOUBLE-SPEAK – (v.8-12)

“But there are some Jews ... who pay no attention to you, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.” – v.12

“God’s plans for your life far exceed the circumstances of your day.” – Louie Giglio

3. ODDS ARE: EXPECT SOME PUSHBACK – (v.13-15)

“What god will be able to rescue you from my hand?” – v.15b

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all *your* heart and with all *your* soul and with all *your* strength.” – Deuteronomy 6:4-5

“God’s plan for your life is not dependent on your doubts, or even your feelings — His plan is so much bigger than those things!” - Joyce Meyers

4. TRUTH IS: GOD IS YOUR DEFENDER– (v.16-18)

“We do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.” – v.16b

“The God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold.” – v.17-18

Acts 20:22-24

- Finish the race
- Complete the Task
- Testify to the gospel of God’s grace

“If anything becomes more fundamental than God to your happiness, meaning in life, and identity, then it is an idol.” – Timothy Keller

5. ODDS ARE: THE HEAT GETS TURNED UP – (v.19-23)

“The king ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ... and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie them up and throw them into the blazing furnace.” – v.19b-20

“When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.” – Isaiah 43:1-3a

“Disappointments were not meant to destroy you. They were meant to strengthen you & give you fortitude to accomplish your God-given destiny.”

6. TRUTH IS: YOU ARE NOT ALONE – (v.24-27)

“Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.” – v.25

“Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God goes with you; he will not fail you, nor forsake you.” – Deut. 31:6

“Fear not; for I am with you; be not dismayed; for I am your God: I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness.” – Isaiah 41:10-13

“I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” – Matthew 28:20b

7. TRUTH IS: GOD GETS THE VICTORY – (v.28-30)

“Therefore I decree that all people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.” – v.29

“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above *every name*, that at the name of Jesus *every knee* should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and *every tongue* confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” – Philippians 2:9-11