

EN(COURAGE)MENT

IN A

CHANGED

WORLD #3:

WORK

EN(COURAGE)MENT IN A *CHANGED* WORLD #3: WORK

*“Daniel made a request of the king,
and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego over the affairs of the
province of Babylon.” (Daniel 2:49)*

**EN(COURAGE)MENT IN A
CHANGED WORLD #: WORK**

**1. Don't Surrender to the
Illusion That You Can't
Influence Your Workplace for
Christ (*Daniel 1:1-7, 17-20*)**

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Daniel 1:1 In the third year of the
reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah,
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon
came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

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² And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.

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**³ Then the king commanded
Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring
some of the people of Israel, both of
the royal family and of the nobility,**

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⁴ youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

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⁵ The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king.

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**⁶ Among these were Daniel,
Hananiah, Mishael, and
and Azariah of the tribe of
Judah.**

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⁷ And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Michael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

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1:17 As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

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¹⁸ At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

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¹⁹ And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king.

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²⁰ And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.

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**2. Don't Surrender to the
Pressure to 'Fit In' as Part of a
Sinful Team**

(Daniel 3:1-7, 13-14)

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Daniel 3:1 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

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² Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

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³ Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

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**⁴ And the herald proclaimed
aloud, “You are commanded,
O peoples, nations, and
languages,**

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⁵ that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

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**6 And whoever does not fall
down and worship shall
immediately be cast into a
burning fiery furnace.”**

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⁷ Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

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

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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?”

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3. Don't Surrender to the False

**'What Happens at Work Stays
at Work' Mentality**

(Daniel 3:8-12)

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Daniel 3:8 Therefore at that time certain
**Chaldeans came forward and
maliciously accused the Jews.**

**⁹ They declared to King
Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever!**

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¹⁰ You, 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.

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**11 And whoever does not fall
down and worship shall be cast
into a burning fiery furnace.**

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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.”

EN(COURAGE)MENT IN A *CHANGED* WORLD #: WORK

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.”

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4. Don't Surrender Your

Testimony & Convictions at Work

- Even If It Costs You...God will

Reward You! (*Daniel 3:16-30*)

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**Daniel 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego answered and said to the
king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no
need to answer you in this matter.**

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**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.**

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**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.”**

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19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated.

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²⁰ And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

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2¹ Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace.

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²² Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

**EN(COURAGE)MENT IN A
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**23 And these three men,
Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego, fell bound into the
burning fiery furnace.**

EN(COURAGE)MENT IN A *CHANGED* WORLD #: WORK

²⁴ 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?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.”

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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.”

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²⁶ 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.

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**²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors,
and the king's counselors gathered together and
saw that 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.**

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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 aside^[f] the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

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29 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.”

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

