

1/10/21

Hope Lives Here: Finding hope for your fears
Cal Rychener

Daniel 3:4-6 (NIV 1984): Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations and men of every language: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

Exodus 20:4-6 (NIV 1984): "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."

Daniel 3:15 (NIV): "Now...if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

Daniel 3:16 (NIV 1984): Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown in to the blazing furnace, 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 you have set up."

When you cave into fear, you never know the story God might otherwise have written, had you stood in hope!

Romans 15:4 (NIV 1984): For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Value #1: Value God's Approval Above Man's Acceptance!

Value #2: Value God's Presence Above Your Problems!

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV 1984): Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Value #3: Value God's Revelation Above Vain Speculation!

Value #4: Value Obedience to God Over Conformity to Culture!

1 Peter 3:14-16 (NIV 1984): ...“Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.” But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously of your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Value #5: Value the LORD Himself above Life Itself!

Psalms 23:4 (KJV): Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me...