

Life Group Notes 10/10/2021 Streamed Week 77
Charlie Temple Daniel week 3 Chapter 3

(This is written to give you good things to enjoy, because look again at what Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-18)! I think he was thinking of us at the time: **17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share...**) The following ice breaker is just a starter for your group. The message comes after the second bar. Please enjoy!)

CROWD BREAKER: Describe a "step of faith" you have taken, a decision you made that made no sense at the time but turned out to be the right thing to do. —The scribe

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to fearlessly proclaim the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time. BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions raised by Charlie Temple's message from this Sunday. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.**

Charlie's two Daniels
The prophet, and the one Charlie eulogized...whom cancer took.

¹Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits (90 feet) and its width six cubits (almost twelve feet) (The Statue of liberty is 151 feet from toes to torch). He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. ²And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the

dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁴Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; ⁶and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." **What do you think? What could the purpose of such a decree be? Do you remember what we learned of Nebuchadnezzar in the last chapter? Why did he bring the best of the empire to his capital and treat them with honor?**

⁷So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

The story took place c. 605 to 530 BC. King says, "Worship this image of gold." And the crowd bows down and worships when the worship team starts playing. The alternative is to burn. **What would you do? What if it were Richie making the decree, someone you honor and respect?**

Daniel's Friends Disobey the King

⁸Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews. ⁹They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image; ¹¹and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. ¹²There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."

Look at the accuser's accusation. Is it accurate? Did they pay DUE regard to the king? What did they refuse to pay?

¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. ¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" **Look at the king's response to the accusers...What does he offer them first? What is the alternative? How sure is the decision?**

*16*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. *17*If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. *18*But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

How did the three respond? What did they change in their response? What did they believe would be the outcome? Did they change in any way in their attitudes toward the king? Is there rebellion? What is the difference between their response and actual rebellion?

*19*Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. *20*And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ***What was the king's response to their response? How is it possible to heat the furnace higher?***

This is what the furnace could have looked like. ***Is the story more believable?***



21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. *22* Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. *23* And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

How confident were the three going into the furnace? What did they experience when their own guards were roasted? What changed in the furnace? What degree of fear do you think they experienced? What do you think happened in the furnace with their newfound friend?

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?"

They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

25 "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the ^{el}Son of God."

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. *27* And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them. **What did they feel coming out of the furnace? Notice how the Satraps see the three "on whom the fire had no power." What is their response?**

Charlie said, "The cancer had ravaged my friend Daniel's body...but it did not touch his spirit." **Connect this to the story of the three.** Charlie described his friend in these terms: "love, joy, peace, goodness, kindness, forbearance, gentleness and self-control." **Does this sound familiar? How does this work?** He continued, "Two and one half years of discomfort...and then Daniel was delivered from the "fire" of cancer straight into the arms of Jesus." **How does this work.**

Do you remember Charlie's encounter on the golf green with the friend who had heard Charlie's eulogy at Daniel's funeral...on the thirteenth hole? **Why was this man so moved? What encourages you when you grieve? Why is it important to continue on to the next hole?**

Charlie continued, "That's the way you look at the encounter. In the fire, in the valley of the shadow of death, looking at your companion. We laughed and looked at his wedding pictures. My last words to him were, 'Peace and love...' because that's all he gave me." He says, "Glorious day was the last encounter." **What do you think?**

1 Peter 1:6 “[6In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in various trials](#) [7](#)so that the proven character of your faith—more precious than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ....**How does this apply to Charlie’s testimony?**

Look at James 1: [2](#)Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of many kinds, [3](#)because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. [4](#)Allow perseverance to finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. **How do you do that? What does this mean, “Faith that is not tried is only theory.” What is “unwavering faith?” Describe the promise...what does it look like to be “mature and complete, not lacking anything?”**

Describe the difference between “walking by faith” and “walking by sight.” Where are the circumstances in a walk by sight? Where are these circumstances in a walk by faith? What is the root of all faith? What does this mean:

[6](#)[For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. only faith working through love.](#)

Charlie says, “Take this story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and live it.” How do you do that? How has your perspective changed?

The rest of the story: [28](#)Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! [29](#)Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.” **What quality in Nebuchadnezzar does this prayer of thanksgiving reveal? What protection is now on the three? How powerful is that protection? Are they any safer now than they were before the furnace?**

How does this promise from Isaiah 54:17 apply here? [17](#) [No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their vindication is from Me,” declares the LORD.](#) **Were they vindicated? When do you receive your heritage?**

[30](#)Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon. **What happens to the reputation of the three? What exactly did these three DO to EARN this reputation? Whose reputation has been magnified? Take time to pray for one another. Be blessed.**

What is your biggest takeaway? Follow the Truth wherever He leads you. He has a Name: Jesus. What is your next step? —the scribe