



## *Raise a Hallelujah* *Day 3: Chorus*

I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm  
Louder and louder,  
you're gonna hear my praises roar  
Up from the ashes, hope will arise  
Death is defeated, the King is alive

### *Scripture Reference*

"...If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

- *Daniel 3: 17-18*



Today we look at a story from Daniel of three courageous men – courageous on behalf of their Lord. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were instructed to worship an image of gold made by King Nebuchadnezzar. Instead, they refused. They raised a hallelujah to their Lord and refused to bow down to any other idol.

*What idols might be stealing your praise today? How can you instead stand strong in the knowledge and grace of your Lord, seeking His will for your life? What actions or choices do you need to make to stand strong in your Lord? Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you today with the strength to turn from manmade idols and instead stand for the glory of your Lord.*

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In Daniel 3: 26-27, we see the three men come out of the fire. We are told “they saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.” Up from the ashes, their Lord had delivered them. Death was defeated. Often, in the midst of our storms or challenges, we forget that God can and will deliver us. There is hope. He can save us from the fire, so much so that we won’t even smell of the fire.

*Have there been any challenges or fires in your life lately that God delivered you from without even the smell of it after? How can you praise your Lord for that deliverance? If instead, maybe you’ve been a bit singed from a recent trial – how have you seen hope come out of that trial? Praise your Lord for that hope, even if it feels small at this moment in time. Jesus can work mightily even in the small.*

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Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego enter the fiery furnace alone and bound. In Daniel 3:25, King Nebuchadnezzar proclaims he sees four men in the furnace – unbound and unharmed. Let us not miss the addition of a fourth person and the lack of bondage of all men. King Nebuchadnezzar tells us that it was the son of the gods – to us, the Son of Man. Maybe the three men knew Jesus was there, maybe they didn't. Either way, Jesus was with them in the midst of their trial. Not only did he save them – He was with them. He freed them from the bondage and delivered them safely. The same is true today. He is with us, He freed us from our bondage, and He delivers us safely.

*Do you feel Jesus' presence in times of trouble? Do you recognize when He delivers you to the other side of your trial? Look back on past trials and recognize specific instances of deliverance by your Lord. Praise Him today for his saving hand in your life. Isn't that worthy of praise?*

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Daniel 3 ends with King Nebuchadnezzar declaring the glory of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's God - our God. Isn't that amazing? In fact, King Nebuchadnezzar declared harm to anyone who spoke badly of their God. Through this trial, God was glorified. Raise a Hallelujah. The true King is alive and He is exalted. Oh beloved, what is better than that?

*How can you use your trials to bring others to our Lord? Write a prayer today that the Holy Spirit would give you the courage to use your story to point others to Christ – not in your own strength, but in His. We are all vessels of His creation. May our life be a reflection of His amazing glory and love. May we each end our days knowing we praised our Lord to anyone and everyone.*

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