



COUNTER CULTURE SERIES

Part 3: Hot! Hot! Hot!

Scripture: Daniel 3:1-30 (ESV) p739

1. Nebuchadnezzar's Statue of Gold

- (Genesis 11:1-9) p8 - Throughout the Bible and even today Man attempts to be sovereign or even godlike: _____ and the **Golden Statue** both constructed on a plain in Babylon to serve as a unifying center for all the peoples - made by men.

- ***What do you Worship?***

Man was created to **Worship!** The problem is Man will naturally try to worship anything and everything... except for God!

All people were **commanded** by King Nebuchadnezzar to **worship** the statue, or else they would be sentenced to **death!**

- ***Who is your Master?***

(Matthew 6:24) p811 You will _____ whatever you **worship!**
You can only serve **one master!**

2. The Really Really Hot Furnace

- The Chaldeans maliciously accused Daniel's friends - they were _____!
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faithfully and boldly proclaimed **God's sovereignty** knowing that death in the furnace was certain.

(Matthew 18:7-9) p823 No ailment or damage to our Earthly bodies or lives is worth denying the God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- God **miraculously preserves** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace!

Who was in the furnace with them?



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3. Persecution and Martyrdom

- **We are called to boldly proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ!**

Most modern persecution is social disadvantages or abuses - however Christians have been and will continue to be persecuted for their faith, even to the point of death.

God did save Daniel's friends in the furnace to show **His Sovereignty**, but not to guarantee protection for Christians from ever experiencing persecution and martyrdom.

(Acts 7:54-60) p916 ***"Lord Jesus, Receive My Spirit!"***

Stephen spoke boldly of Jesus and God's Gospel - He was stoned to death for this!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What places or situations is your faith often or most likely susceptible to challenges or persecution?

What are some realistic ways (i.e. consequences) we will likely suffer because of our faith?

***How are we supposed to act, in response to those who persecute us?
(Read Matthew 5:38-42) p810***

***Why are Christians supposed to respond like this?
(Read Luke 23:32-34) p884***

Closing Prayer Topic:

Father God, help us to boldly proclaim Your Sovereignty and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray that you will give us courage and strength to act faithfully when we are faced with adversity. We pray for those who persecute us, that they will turn to You. Amen.

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