

Daniel 3:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

Analysis

Nebuchadnezzar's theological declaration 'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him' shows remarkable understanding. He recognizes divine action ('sent his angel'), the means of deliverance (angel), the recipients (God's servants), and the ground of deliverance (trust in God). Yet notice: still 'God of' these men, not 'my God'—pagan relativism hasn't fully yielded to exclusive monotheism. The phrase 'trusted in him' identifies faith as the critical factor. The king also notes they 'changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies' rather than compromise worship—he respects their conviction even while earlier punishing it.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern polytheism regularly acknowledged other peoples' gods as real and powerful, especially after demonstrations of divine power. Nebuchadnezzar's blessing doesn't necessarily indicate conversion but rather diplomatic acknowledgment—he won't challenge deities who demonstrate such power. The reference to an angel reflects ancient understanding of divine beings serving as messengers and agents of deity. Mesopotamian religion included

complex hierarchies of divine and semi-divine beings, making the angel's appearance interpretable within Babylonian categories.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Why can people acknowledge God's power and even praise Him without actually trusting Him as their own God?
2. What does the connection between trust and deliverance teach about faith as the instrument receiving divine provision?

Interlinear Text

שְׂדַרְךָ	דִּי	יֵאלֹהִים:	בְּרַיָּה	וְאָמַר	נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר	רָ	עָנָה
of Shadrach	H1768	be the God	Blessed	and said	Then Nebuchadnezzar		spake
H7715		H426	H1289	H560	H5020		H6032
וְשִׁיזָה	בְּ	מַלְאָכָה	שָׁלַח	דִּי	נְגַו	וְעַבְדֵי	מִשְׁכָּה
and delivered		his angel	who hath sent	H1768	and Abednego	H0	Meshach
H7804		H4398	H7972		H5665		H4336
שֶׁנִּי	וְ	מַלְכָּא	וּמַלְאָכָה	עַל	וְהִי	הִתְרַחֲצוּ	דִּי
and have changed		the king's	word	in him		that trusted	H1768
H8133		H4430	H4406	H5922		H7365	H5649
לְכָל	יִסְגְּדוּן	וְלֹא	יִפְלָחוּ	וְלֹא	דִּי	גִשְׁמִיָּה	וְ
any	worship	nor	serve	nor		their bodies	and yielded
H3606	H5457	H3809	H6399	H3809		H1655	H3052
יֵאלֹהִים:	לֹא	יֵאלֹהִים:	לֹא	יֵאלֹהִים:	לֹא	יֵאלֹהִים:	יֵאלֹהִים:
be the God	except	be the God					
H426	H3861	H426					

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 12:11 (Word): And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Exodus 20:5 (References God): Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Romans 12:1 (References God): I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Psalms 147:11 (Parallel theme): The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

Acts 5:19 (Parallel theme): But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

Psalms 62:8 (Faith): Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

Daniel 3:25 (Kingdom): He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Matthew 4:10 (Worship): Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Daniel 2:47 (Kingdom): The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

Isaiah 37:36 (Parallel theme): Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.