

# Daniel 3:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

## Analysis

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Nebuchadnezzar's decree demonstrates how God's deliverance of the faithful can lead to broader testimony and even legal protection for believers. The phrase "any people, nation, or language" emphasizes the decree's universal scope throughout the Babylonian Empire, making blasphemy against Yahweh a capital crime. While this doesn't indicate Nebuchadnezzar's full conversion to exclusive Yahweh worship, it represents remarkable progress in acknowledging God's uniqueness and power.

The reasoning "because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort" grounds the decree in observed evidence—God's demonstrated power surpasses all alternatives. This pragmatic theological conclusion moves beyond mere acknowledgment toward functional supremacy. The threatened punishment ("cut in pieces" and houses made "a dunghill") reflects ancient Near Eastern severity while protecting Jewish communities from religious persecution throughout the empire.

This verse teaches that God uses His people's faithfulness and miraculous deliverance to advance His glory among nations. What began as three individuals' private conviction became empire-wide testimony to God's sovereignty. Their

willingness to die for faith resulted in legal protection for all Jewish communities. This illustrates how individual faithfulness can have corporate blessing, advancing God's kingdom purposes beyond personal salvation. It points to Christ's faithful obedience unto death, which secured salvation not merely for Himself but for all who believe.

## Historical Context

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Nebuchadnezzar's decree (circa 580s BC) provided legal protection for Jewish religious practice throughout the Babylonian Empire during the exile period. This governmental acknowledgment of Yahweh's power created space for Jewish communities to maintain distinct identity without forced assimilation. The decree didn't establish monotheistic worship but granted Yahweh supremacy among deities, reflecting ancient Near Eastern tolerance for powerful foreign gods within polytheistic frameworks.

Archaeological evidence reveals that Persian and Babylonian empires sometimes protected minority religions when it served political purposes. Daniel 3:29 represents early biblical precedent for religious freedom, demonstrating how God can use even pagan rulers to protect His people. This protection encouraged Jewish faithfulness during exile and allowed preservation of distinct identity necessary for eventual restoration to Judah.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does God use believers' faithfulness in hostile contexts to create broader opportunities for gospel advancement and religious freedom?
2. What does this account teach about the relationship between individual courage and corporate blessing for God's people?

## Interlinear Text

וּמִנִּי	שֶׁ יֵאֵמַר	טֶעֱמָה	דִּי	כָּל	עַם	אֲמֵה	וְלִשָּׁן
Therefore	I make	a decree	H1768	That every	people	nation	and language
H4481	H7761	H2942		H3606	H5972	H524	H3961
דִּי	יֵאֵמַר	שְׁלֵה	עַל	אֵלֶּה	דִּי	שְׂדַרְחַן	מִשְׁחַן
H1768	which speak	H7955	against	God	H1768	of Shadrach	Meshach
	H560		H5922	H426		H7715	H4336
וְעַבְדֵּי דְ	נְגֻאָה	הַדָּמָה	יִתְּעַבְדוּ	וּבְיֵתֵיהֶם	נֹלֵךְ		
H0	and Abednego	in pieces	shall be cut	and their houses	a dunghill		
	H5665	H1917	H5648	H1005	H5122		
יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה	כָּל	קִבְּלָהּ	דִּי	לֹא	אֵינִי	אֵלֶּה	אֲחֵרִים
shall be made	That every	because	H1768	no	there is	God	other
H7739	H3606	H6903		H3809	H383	H426	H321
יִכָּל	לְהַצִּילָהּ	כְּדָנָהּ					
that can	deliver	after this					
H3202	H5338	H1836					

## Additional Cross-References

**Daniel 2:5** (Creation): The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.