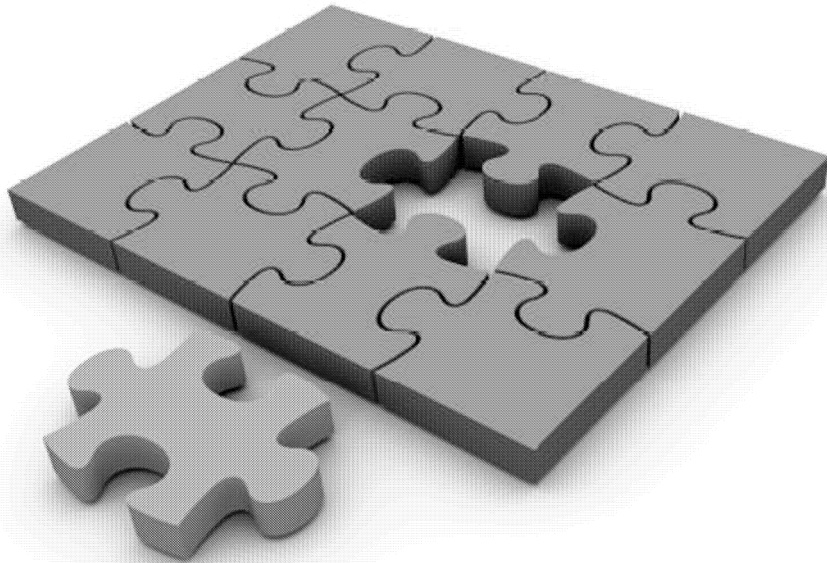


Studies in Daniel – (Study 11) Authentic Faith

Reading: Daniel 3:16-25



Living a godly life in an ungodly world

In our last study, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were left with a challenge from the king concerning God's power to help them and the test of their own faith to stand firm.

- 1) Where do we find ourselves vulnerable to disloyalty towards God's Kingdom?
- 2) Verses 16-18 give us a great example of daring faith. *What does the reply of these three young men reveal about their understanding of God?*
- 3) When the three Jews reply to Nebuchadnezzar and say that their God could save them from death in the fiery furnace, do you think they are hedging their bets a bit with their "if not" words in verse 18? Do we sometimes use the "if not" as a safety net?
- 4) Why are we given so much detailed information in verses 21-23 when a simple statement that they were thrown into the furnace would have been sufficient?

By any human reasoning the story should end here; victory for Nebuchadnezzar and a reaffirmation of his absolute power. But now we see an amazing turn of events.

- 5) Nebuchadnezzar starts by believing he is seeing things, until the awful truth dawns in verse 25. *In seeing the fourth man, what has the king realised at last?*
- 6) What would you say is the bottom line message of this chapter?