

The Way of the Exiled, pt 2

Part 1: Jeremiah prophesied it. Jeremiah 24-29

Part 2: Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego lived it. Daniel 3-4

Part 3: Jesus died for it. Matthew 22:17-22; 27:11-14; John 18:28-20:29

- (Psalms 139:1-24) "O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. {2} Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. {3} Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. {4} For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. {5} Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. {6} Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. {7} Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? {8} If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. {9} If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; {10} Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. {11} If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. {12} Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. {13} For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. {14} I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. {15} My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. {16} Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. {17} How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! {18} If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee. {19} Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. {20} For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. {21} Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? {22} I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies. {23} Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: {24} And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

LIVING BETWEEN LOYALTY AND SUBVERSION

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego lived it.

(Revelation 2:13) "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth."

We will see by the end of this series a clearer picture of God's sovereignty, His love for us, how patient He is toward us, and how His plans unfold to show us those things (and more). We will be able to practically apply God-honoring, Christian living in our own symbolic Babylon.

- **We have learned about the prophecy that Jeremiah delivered by reading through several chapters of the book of Jeremiah. (Part 1)**
- **We will read an account of exactly how Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego aligned themselves with the prophecy, thus leading to their salvation. (Part 2)**
- **We will read how Jesus taught by example the first century Israelites how to live by this way of life, realizing yet how we are all still in exile. (Part 3)**
- **Each week, we will discuss further how this applies to our current lives and how we should live amongst a crooked and perverse nation (Phil 2:15).**

It isn't meant to be a promise that the LORD will save you from affliction on earth, because it isn't about us, but about His glory.

That Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego didn't even smell of smoke after coming out of the furnace was God's choice that brought glory to Him and a recognizing by Nebuchadnezzar of God's holiness.

If the fact that they were spared out of the furnace were the promise to focus on, then we could argue that the reading from Revelation might be different, and Antipas would not have been martyred. So then, this is a witness to us that there is something different, deeper that we are to discern from this passage from Daniel.

God has also empowered you with the Holy Spirit to overcome any temptation to sin and has provided sufficient resources for you to respond biblically to any situation of life.

(Romans 5:3-5) "And not only so, but **we glory in tribulations** also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; {4} And patience, experience; and experience, hope: {5} And hope maketh not ashamed; **because the love of God is shed abroad in**

our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

(Romans 6:22-23) "**But now being made free from sin**, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. {23} For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

(1 Corinthians 10:13) "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; **but will with the temptation also make a way to escape**, that ye may be able to bear it."

Did you know that your flesh will work against the Spirit, that your inclination will be to make the sinful choice? It influences, but cannot force. When presented with pressure, the flesh will do all to glorify itself (or preserve itself), but unto us, we are given the strength and resources to overcome the temptation, so with the defeating of the temptation comes blessings and maturation in our walk with Christ!

(James 1:2-4) "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; {3} Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. {4} But **let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.**"

You are incapable in your own strength and insufficient in your own resources to overcome the wiles and temptations of Satan.

(John 15:5) "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for **without me ye can do nothing.**"

The branch withers without the vine (root) when cut away and cast on to the ground. But the same branch, being grafted in and growing as part of the whole, within the system of the vine, will receive nourishment and growth, abundantly producing all the fruit that it is intended because it is part of the tree.

So, do not set yourself apart from Christ.

(Proverbs 18:1) "Through desire a man, **having separated himself**, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom."

The phrase "I'd rather ask for forgiveness than ask for permission" is a premeditated sin that runs rampant in our culture.

(Philippians 4:13) "I can **do all things** through Christ which strengtheneth me."

This is not a passage that speaks in context to being able to perform super-human feats. It speaks specifically to Paul telling the Philippians that in any and every circumstance, he's learned the secret to facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

(Philippians 4:10-13) "But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. {11} Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. {12} I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: **every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.** {13} I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

For Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, they lived dead to their flesh. They were able to be Revelation 12:11 sons of God.

(Revelation 12:11) "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.**"

(Daniel 3:1-30) "Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. {2} Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. {3} Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. {4} Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, {5} That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: {6} **And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.** {7} Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

{8} ¶ Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews. {9} They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever. {10} Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall

fall down and worship the golden image: {11} And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. {12} There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego; **these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.**

{13} ¶ Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. **Then they brought these men before the king.** {14} Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? {15} Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? {16} Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. {17} **If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.** {18} **But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.**

{19} ¶ Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. {20} And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. {21} Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. {22} Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. {23} And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. {24} **Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished,** and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. {25} 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.

{26} ¶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, **ye servants of the most high God,** come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire. {27} And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men,

upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them. {28} 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. {29} 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. {30} Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, in the province of Babylon."

So then we crucify our flesh daily so that when the temptations come, the Spirit dwelling within us moves freely to bring glory to God.

(Romans 12:1) "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."

(Galatians 5:24-26) "And **they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh** with the affections and lusts. {25} If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. {26} Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."

Paul describes "crucifying the flesh" as a radical form of repentance that believers must undergo. The "flesh" that is to be crucified is the sin that exists in human nature, and the body is considered a gateway to sin.

It is important to live in line with the laws of the land that we find ourselves in, yet uncompromising in the law of the LORD. We are aliens in this place, waiting on the LORD Jesus Christ's second coming and rule. We are to be polite guests in this place, remembering our ambassadorship in Christ Jesus, not wavering in anything.

Sermon Scriptures:

Psalms 139:1-24

Revelation 2:13

Romans 5:3-5

Romans 6:22-23

1 Corinthians 10:13

James 1:2-4

John 15:5

Proverbs 18:1

Philippians 4:13

Philippians 4:10-13

Revelation 12:11

Daniel 3:1-30

Romans 12:1

Galatians 5:24-26