



NO MATTER THE COST



| | THE THREAT | DEATH-DEFYING FAITH | THE RESULT |
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| SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO | Worship the king's statue or be thrown into the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:13-15). | "[God] can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire . . . But even if he does not . . . we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up" (3:17-18). | After seeing the fourth man and that they were unharmed, Nebuchadnezzar praised God (3:29). |
| DANIEL | For thirty days, pray only to the king or be thrown into the lions' den (Daniel 6:6-9). | "He got down on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before" (6:10). | God preserved Daniel, and Darius praised God (6:22). |
| ESTHER | Approaching the king unbidden was punishable by death (Esther 4:8-11). | "I will go to the king even if it is against the law. If I perish, I perish" (4:16). | The king showed Esther favor and permitted the Jews to protect themselves (8:11). |
| ZERUBBABEL, JESHUA, HAGGAI, AND ZECHARIAH | Their names were sent to the king for a decision regarding rebuilding the temple (Ezra 4:24-5:17). | "Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak began to rebuild God's house in Jerusalem" (5:2). | Darius gave them everything they needed and prohibited anyone from stopping them (6:12). |
| EZRA | Faced potential harm from enemies on the way to Jerusalem (Ezra 8:21-22). | "I proclaimed a fast . . . so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us" (8:21). | God strengthened Ezra and protected the Israelites from ambush (8:31). |
| NEHEMIAH | Enemies attempted to harm, intimidate, and discredit him to prevent the wall from being completed (Nehemiah 6:2,9,13). | Resisted their attempts and prayed: "But now, my God, strengthen my hands. . . . My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat for what they have done" (6:3-4,8-9,14). | Completed the wall in fifty-two days, and the enemies were intimidated, realizing this task had been accomplished by God (6:15-16). |
| JESUS | Experienced the shame associated with death on a cross (Hebrews 12:2). | "For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame" (12:2). | "and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (12:2). |

ITEM 5

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