

# CrossWalk **notes**

## Stand Out

### Hope in the Face of Suffering

August 20, 2023 / Dan Solofra

#### How does hope lead me to make good, hard choices?

<sup>1</sup>King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. <sup>2</sup>He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. . . <sup>4</sup>Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: <sup>5</sup>As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” **Daniel 3:1-2, 4-6, NIV**

**Tolerance:** When I allow someone else to be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Intolerance:** When I am told that \_\_\_\_ must celebrate or do wrong and say it is \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>8</sup>At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. . . <sup>12</sup>But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.”

<sup>13</sup>Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, <sup>15</sup>. . . if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?” **Daniel 3:8,12-13;15 NIV**

Satan uses \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ narratives to try to get us to abandon hope in God.

<sup>16</sup>Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup>If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. <sup>18</sup>But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” **Daniel 3:16-18, NIV**

**Hope is the certain belief that the \_\_\_\_\_ is yet to come.**

<sup>24</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?” They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”<sup>25</sup>He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.” . . . <sup>28</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. **Daniel 3:24-25;28, NIV**

**Our hope is in \_\_\_\_\_ who walks through the fire both \_\_\_\_\_ us and \_\_\_\_\_ us. He makes us Stand Out.**

## MEMORY VERSE

The God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. **Daniel 3:17, NIV**

**My next step:** I have a certain hope in Jesus. I will not have any other God. I will fear, love and trust in him above all things.

What’s your next step?

Mark it on your connection card.