

Tuesday 15th February 2022

Daniel 3: 1 *“King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.”*

Daniel 3: 17, 18 *“If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”*

Wow! This is brave behaviour by Daniel's friends all of whom have been promoted to King Nebuchadnezzar's court as trusted advisors even though they came from a group of people from Judah in exile in Babylon. Inevitably their positions attracted envy and malice from the Babylonians at the king's court. The setting up of an enormous gold icon by the king which everybody was required to worship provided an opportunity for the jealous courtiers to have Daniel's friends destroyed.

They held fast to their faith in God however and were duly protected in the fiery furnace into which they were thrown for refusing to bow down and worship the king's icon. This steadfast trust in God in the face of persecution is a recurring theme in the Bible and sadly continues for some Christian communities today. Can we in our relatively benign environment stand up for our faith?