

But If Not

Faithfulness. Witness. Togetherness.





WINNER
Best Director
sundance

WINNER
Best Film
sundance

"so disturbing, intense,
to forget we're watching
-Justin Gerber, Consequence of Sound"

THEY WERE GIVEN 2 WEEKS. IT LASTED 6 DAYS.

THE STANFORD PRISON EXPERIMENT

"so disturbing, intense, and believable that it's easy to forget we're watching a movie."
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ITC FILMS
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Philip G. Zimbardo, *The Lucifer Effect*

Our personal identities are socially situated. **We are where we live, eat, work, and make love.**



Philip G. Zimbardo, *The Lucifer Effect*

Our sense of identity is in large measure conferred on us by others in the ways they treat or mistreat us, recognize or ignore us, praise us or punish us... Those subjective beliefs create new realities for us. We often become who other people think we are, in their eyes and in our behavior.



Daniel 3



Daniel 3:1 NKJV

Nebuchadnezzar **the king made an image of gold,** whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.





Daniel 3:16-18 NKJV

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. [17] If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace,...



Daniel 3:16-18 NKJV

...and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. [18]

But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."



But If Not



Dale Ralph Davis, *The Message of Daniel*

So they were unsure of God's circumstantial will (whether they escape) but were sure of God's revealed will ('You shall have no other gods besides me')



**We May Not Always Know
His Circumstantial Will**



**We Must Always Strive to be
Faithful to His Revealed Will**



2025

Hoping for the Best. Faithful In the Worst.



Ellen White, *Ministry of Healing*

Our plans are not always God's plans. He may see that it is best for us and for His cause to refuse our very best intentions, as He did in the case of David... **If He sees it best not to grant their desires He will counterbalance the refusal by giving them tokens of His love and entrusting to them another service.**



Ellen White, *Ministry of Healing*

In His loving care and interest for us, often He who understands us better than we understand ourselves refuses to permit us selfishly to seek the gratification of our own ambition... **Often our plans fail that God's plans for us may succeed.**

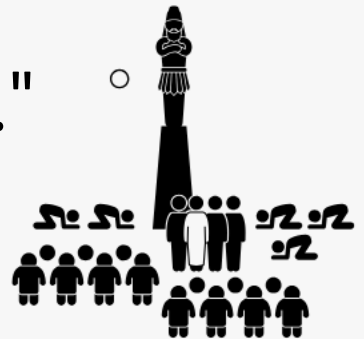


Faithfulness



Daniel 3:17-18 NKJV

If that is the case, **our God whom we serve is able to deliver us** from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. [18] **But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods,** nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."



Daniel 3:12 NKJV

There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you.** They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."



Daniel 3:15 NKJV

Now if... you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?"



Jews <- Three Hebrews -> God



**Your Life Shows
Who Your God Is**



1 Corinthians 4:9 NKJV

For I think that God has displayed us... for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.



Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*

In the midst of the worshipping multitude **there were three men who were firmly resolved not thus to dishonor the God of heaven.** Their God was King of kings and Lord of lords; they would bow to none other.



Sola Scriptura
Sola Gratia
Sola Fide
Sola Christus
Soli Deo Gloria



Soli Deo Gloria

Glory to God Alone



Witness



Daniel 3:25 NKJV

"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, **and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.**"



Ellen White, *Prophets and Kings*

How did that heathen king know what the Son of God was like? **The Hebrew captives filling positions of trust in Babylon had in life and character represented before him the truth. When asked for a reason of their faith, they had given it without hesitation.** Plainly and simply they had presented the principles of righteousness, thus teaching those around them of the God whom they worshiped.



Daniel 3:25 NKJV

"Look!" he answered, **"I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."**



Isaiah 43:2 NKJV

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.



Not *From*, But *Through*

God is With Us Both in the Ups and Downs of Life



James Clear, *Atomic Habits*

Humans are similar. There is tremendous internal pressure to comply with the norms of the group. The reward of being accepted is often greater than the reward of winning an argument, looking smart, or finding truth. Most days, we'd rather be wrong with the crowd than be right by ourselves.



Why Did They Not Bow With the Crowd?



They Did.



**It Was Just With A
Different Crowd.**



**When God Stands With You
All Heaven is With You**



2 Kings 6:17 NKJV

And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.



Togetherness



But If Not

Faithfulness. Witness. Togetherness.



"He Maketh No Mistake" by A. M. Overton

My Father's way may twist and turn,
My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad to know,
He maketh no mistake.



***"He Maketh No Mistake"* by A. M. Overton**

My cherished plans may go astray,

My hopes may fade away,

But still I'll trust my Lord to lead,

For He doth know the way.



"He Maketh No Mistake" by A. M. Overton

Though night be dark and it may seem
That day will never break,
I'll pin my faith, my all in Him,
He maketh no mistake.



"He Maketh No Mistake" by A. M. Overton

For by and by the mist will lift
And plain it all He'll make,
Through all the way, though dark to me,
He made not one mistake.



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