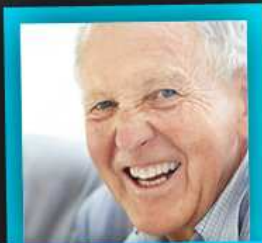


Showing Your Better Side

Daniel 3:19-30



¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He gave orders to heat the furnace seven times more than was customary,



²⁰ and he commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the furnace of blazing fire.



²¹ So these men, in their trousers, robes, head coverings, and other clothes, were tied up and thrown into the furnace of blazing fire.



²² Since the king's command was so urgent and the furnace extremely hot, the raging flames killed those men who carried Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego up.



²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.



²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in alarm. He said to his advisers, “Didn’t we throw three men, bound, into the fire?” “Yes, of course, Your Majesty,” they replied to the king.



²⁵ He exclaimed, “Look! I see four men, not tied, walking around in the fire unharmed; and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”



²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and called: “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you servants of the Most High God—come out!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire.



²⁷ When the satraps, prefects, governors, and the king's advisers gathered around, they saw that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men: not a hair of their heads was singed, their robes were unaffected, and there was no smell of fire on them.



²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed,
“Praise to the God of Shadrach,
Meshach, and Abednego! He sent
His angel and rescued His servants
who trusted in Him. They violated
the king’s command and risked their
lives rather than serve or worship
any god except their own God.



29 Therefore I issue a decree that anyone of any people, nation, or language who says anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be torn limb from limb and his house made a garbage dump.

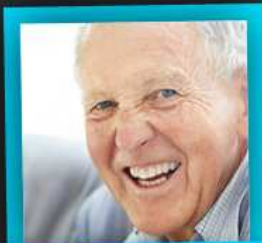


For there is no other god who is able to deliver like this.”³⁰ Then the king rewarded Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.



Showing Your Better Side

Daniel 3:19-30



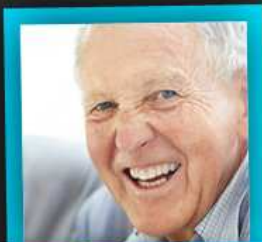
Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom

Unaffected by False Worship

Unshakable Commitment to God

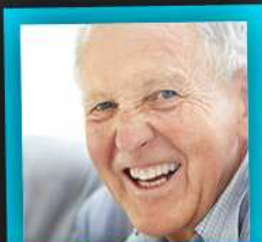


¹ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and laid siege to it.



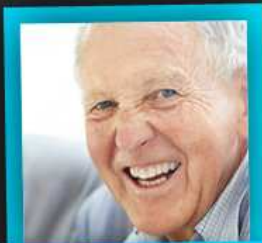
Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom (1:1-16)

² The Lord handed Jehoiakim king of Judah over to him, along with some of the vessels from the house of God. Nebuchadnezzar carried them to the land of Babylon, to the house of his god, and put the vessels in the treasury of his god.



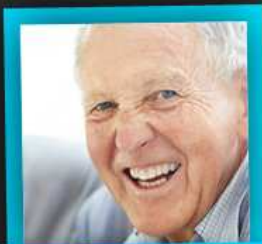
Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom (1:1-16)

³ The king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his court officials, to bring some of the Israelites from the royal family and from the nobility—



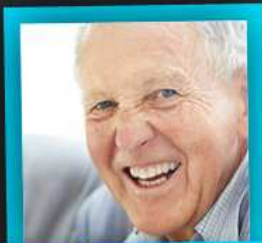
Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom (1:1-16)

⁴ young men without any physical defect, good-looking, suitable for instruction in all wisdom, knowledgeable, perceptive, and capable of serving in the king's palace —



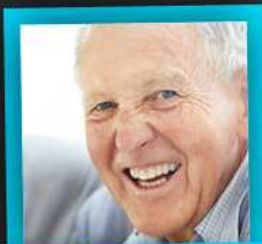
Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom (1:1-16)

and to teach them the Chaldean language and literature.



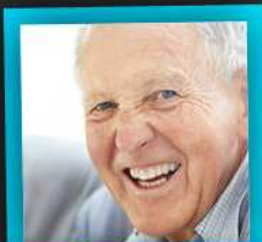
Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom (1:1-16)

⁵ The king assigned them daily provisions from the royal food and from the wine that he drank. They were to be trained for three years, and at the end of that time they were to serve in the king's court.



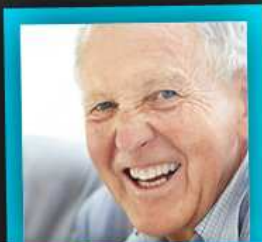
Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom (1:1-16)

⁶ Among them, from the descendants of Judah, were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.



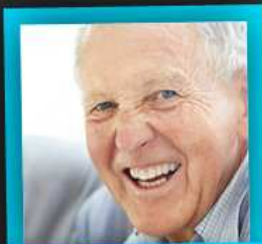
Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom (1:1-16)

⁷ The chief official gave them other names: he gave the name Belteshazzar to Daniel, Shadrach to Hananiah, Meshach to Mishael, and Abednego to Azariah.



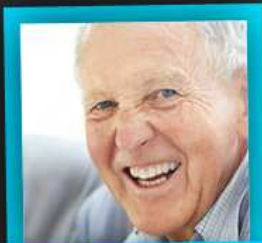
Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom (1:1-16)

⁸ Daniel determined that he would not defile himself with the king's food or with the wine he drank. So he asked permission from the chief official not to defile himself.



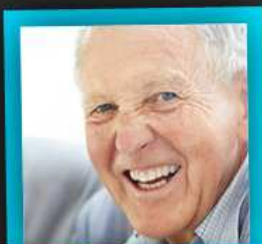
Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom (1:1-16)

⁹ God had granted Daniel favor and compassion from the chief official,



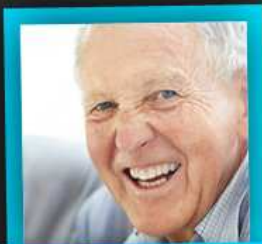
Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom (1:1-16)

¹⁰ yet he said to Daniel, “My lord the king assigned your food and drink. I’m afraid of what would happen if he saw your faces looking thinner than those of the other young men your age. You would endanger my life with the king.”



Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom (1:1-16)

¹¹ So Daniel said to the guard whom the chief official had assigned to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹² “Please test your servants for 10 days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink.



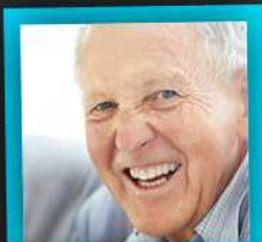
Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom (1:1-16)

¹³ Then examine our appearance and the appearance of the young men who are eating the king's food, and deal with your servants based on what you see.” ¹⁴ He agreed with them about this and tested them for 10 days.



Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom (1:1-16)

¹⁵ At the end of 10 days they looked better and healthier than all the young men who were eating the king's food. ¹⁶ So the guard continued to remove their food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables.

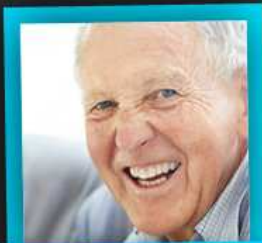


Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom (1:1-16)

Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom

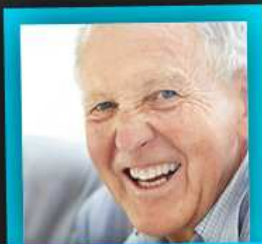


¹ King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue, 90 feet high and nine feet wide. He set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.



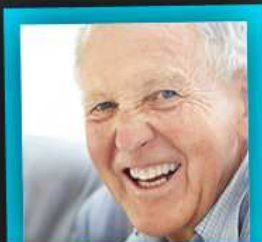
Unaffected by False Worship (3:1-12)

² King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to assemble the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the rulers of the provinces to attend the dedication of the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.



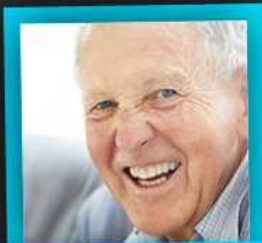
Unaffected by False Worship (3:1-12)

³ So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the rulers of the provinces assembled for the dedication of the statue the king had set up. Then they stood before the statue Nebuchadnezzar had set up.



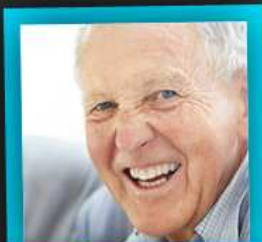
Unaffected by False Worship (3:1-12)

⁴ A herald loudly proclaimed,
“People of every nation and
language, you are commanded:



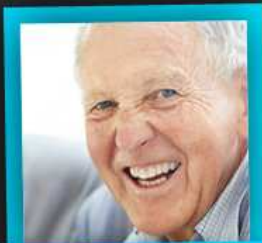
Unaffected by False Worship (3:1-12)

⁵ When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, drum, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.



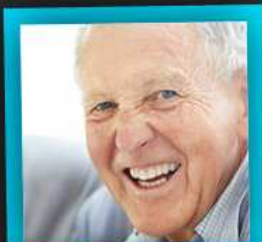
Unaffected by False Worship (3:1-12)

⁶ But whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.”



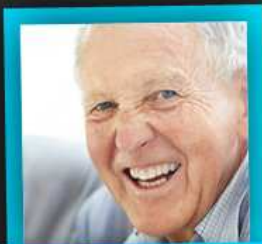
Unaffected by False Worship (3:1-12)

⁷ Therefore, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, and every kind of music, people of every nation and language fell down and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.



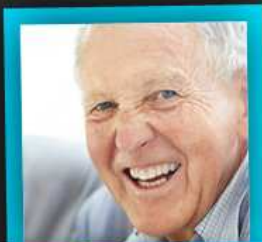
Unaffected by False Worship (3:1-12)

⁸ Some Chaldeans took this occasion to come forward and maliciously accuse the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “May the king live forever.



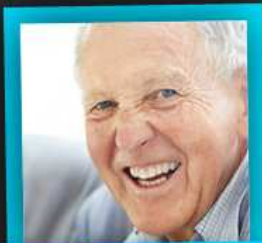
Unaffected by False Worship (3:1-12)

¹⁰ You as king have issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, drum, and every kind of music must fall down and worship the gold statue.



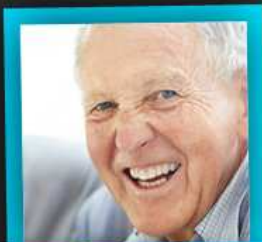
Unaffected by False Worship (3:1-12)

¹¹ Whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.



Unaffected by False Worship (3:1-12)

¹² There are some Jews you have appointed to manage the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men have ignored you, the king; they do not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”



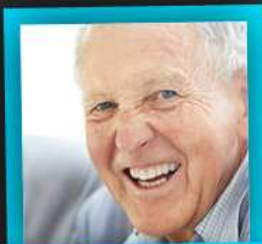
Unaffected by False Worship (3:1-12)

Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom

Unaffected by False Worship

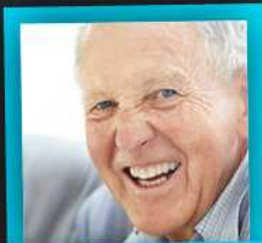


¹³ Then in a furious rage
Nebuchadnezzar gave orders to
bring in Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego. So these men were
brought before the king.



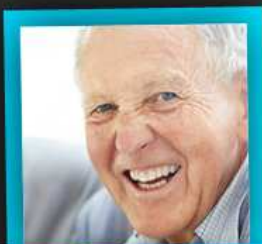
Unshakable Commitment to God (3:13-18)

¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar asked them,
“Shadrach, Meshach, and
Abednego, is it true that you don’t
serve my gods or worship the gold
statue I have set up?”



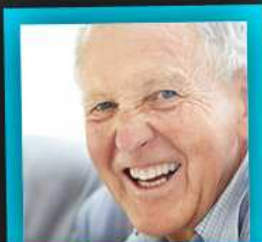
Unshakable Commitment to God (3:13-18)

¹⁵ Now if you're ready, when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, drum, and every kind of music, fall down and worship the statue I made. But if you don't worship it, you will immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire—



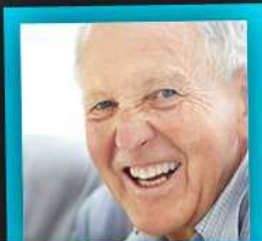
Unshakable Commitment to God (3:13-18)

and who is the god who can rescue you from my power?”¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to the king, “Nebuchadnezzar, we don’t need to give you an answer to this question.



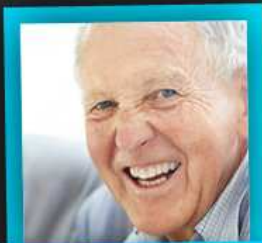
Unshakable Commitment to God (3:13-18)

¹⁷ If the God we serve exists, then He can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and He can rescue us from the power of you, the king.



Unshakable Commitment to God (3:13-18)

¹⁸ But even if He does not rescue us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up.”



Unshakable Commitment to God (3:13-18)

Unimpressed with Earthly Wisdom

Unaffected by False Worship

Unshakable Commitment to God



Are you showing
your **BETTER** side?

