

Surprising or Expected?

Daniel 3 tells the story of government tyranny and the courage of believers. Review the elements of that account that follow. When we look at these elements, some may be surprising while some may not. Mark each of these elements as being expected by you (E) or as being surprising to you (S).

There are no right or wrong answers. What is important is that you can explain why you marked each statement as you did.

- _____ 1. The king demanded worship—under penalty of death for not doing so—of an image he set up.
- _____ 2. The overwhelming majority of citizens obeyed the mandate without question.
- _____ 3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego dared disobey the command, knowing the consequences.
- _____ 4. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were reported to the king for their resistance.
- _____ 5. Nebuchadnezzar told Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that no god could rescue them from his power—implying that he was the chief of all gods!
- _____ 6. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego defied the king, proclaiming their faith in Yahweh.
- _____ 7. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stated that they would believe, even if Yahweh did not save them.
- _____ 8. Nebuchadnezzar, in a rage, ordered the furnace to be heated to levels that ultimately caused the death of his own attendants.
- _____ 9. Nebuchadnezzar saw an additional figure in the furnace.
- _____ 10. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were retrieved from the fire, totally unaffected by the flames.
- _____ 11. Nebuchadnezzar praised Yahweh after this event.