morning and welcome to the Simi valley

seventh-day Adventist church

it's uh sabbath august 22 2020

and we're delighted to be able to bring

you this livestream worship service

this morning once again

in front of an empty church

peoples pews but we know that you're out

there and

as we share this time together we trust

that god will knit our hearts together

uh through the power of his holy spirit

so we thank you and we welcome you

today pastor Phil i have an idea why

don't we get cut at

cutouts of the church members and we can

put them in their usual

that's right feel like we're we're

actually

having church maybe we should do that

like they're doing in major league

baseball

and we could have church members pay for

cutouts of their picture

that we could put in the pew and that

would help raise money for some special

project hey pastor Jan that was

brilliant

maybe we should explore that possibility

if this pandemic goes on

well listen we're delighted to be able

to share with you today

it is excessively hot even here in the

sanctuary and so

i'm not going to be wearing a suit

jacket today and i know i didn't ask

your permission about that but

i want to be able to survive while I’m

up here so uh

thank you again for joining us and uh

because of the excessive heat uh we are

uh pastor Jan and i we're not gonna be

having our

uh drive-by today i know we will miss

you so much those of you that have come

out so faithfully

um so sorry we won't be able to see you

but um our your in our thoughts and

prayers

yes uh we want you to stay home and we

want you to stay cool

so uh there will be no drive-by

uh greeting today but do let us know if

you have special needs and you need us

to drop by and have a porch visit with

you or whatever

why we want you to let us know about

that uh pastor jan something very sad

happened in the church

uh tell us about that we lost a dear

loved one in our church

yes yesterday afternoon um Dixie butler

passed away

she is the mother of Laura jones

and our hearts go out to the family

as they grieve her loss and

we will notify you when the services

will be planned

thank you pastor Jan so please keep the

uh

uh jones family uh Laura and carl

and Juliana and all the rest of the

family members in your prayer

uh this has been a challenging time uh

Dixie has been

in a uh skilled nursing facility for

some time

and then she acquired the uh coronavirus

and other health challenges and

um we're just so sorry for the loss uh

we will deeply deeply

miss her so again do keep the the family

in your prayers uh pastor Jan we

continue our

uh our see me encourage family worship

tell us about that

well it's exciting to read the stories

um right now we're reading a book about

angel experiences and i have to tell you

pastor Phil

that i have just been blessed

as i've read these stories of

how angels have intervened in

remarkable ways and i i'm touched by

that

you know we don't know sometimes

when the angels are working with us

but they do and we are so grateful

for god's messengers

who are concerned with our salvation

yes and i just want to say that um you

know i don't know whether

everybody is just weary or what but we

have noticed that our participation in

our uh uh see me encourage

family worship which by the way is from

7 to 7 30. it's only 30 minutes

and that goes Sunday Tuesday and

uh Sunday Tuesday Thursday and Friday

evenings

and i can't help but notice that our

attendance has kind of gone down there

are some of you that have not been with

us in a long time

you've not joined us so please come back

this is a great opportunity for us to

experience mutual fellowship

uh to encourage one another and so

please

we invite you and encourage you join us

tomorrow night and all this week for our

Simi

encourage family worship now pastor Jan

this afternoon this evening i should say

at 6 30. we have a sp-- very special event

taking place tell us about that

Bridget Staubach one of our moms

from school she's been studying

god's word and god has um

just really made some powerful changes

in her life

and she's excited and she decided to

give her life to Jesus

through baptism and wants to join our

seventh the Adventist church here

locally

and we are so excited for it and we will

be having it live streamed

um on our church website and um

we're just thrilled to have Bridget um

become part of our church family that

event is going to take place

at 6 30 tonight and as pastor

Jan said we will be live streaming it

from our backyard our swimming pool

and so uh we would encourage you to to

participate in that live stream

and uh encourage uh Bridgette in this uh

journey that she

is taking now uh we do have limited

space for those that may want to attend

it in person

there are actually only a few slots

available i sent out a couple of

opportunities for you to register

please register to come and for those of

you who do come

we are asking that you maintain all of

the

mandated protocols of face coverings and

social distancing

and so if you've not yet registered we

have only

i think when i looked a bit ago there

were only five slots available

so we encourage you to to register

because uh that is limited participation

only

but certainly if you can't come in

person please

join us on the live stream so that you

can participate and encourage

uh Bridgette in this in this journey and

by the way pastor Jan

uh we have some more baptism scheduled

for the month of September

and we are looking forward to that and i

i also want to include as we're talking

about baptisms that we have a baptism on

Wednesday

that's right i forgot about that just

because of someone's scheduling

uh that baptism is going to take place

this Wednesday evening

at six o'clock at six o'clock and it

will be

it will be live streamed as well in our

pool and

it's an exciting um baptism because

it's the grandson of a longtime

church member of this particular church

they've passed away but

this person through the covet experience

is coming back to be baptized and it's

Harold o'reilly Barbara jones

o'reilly um is his mom

and the joneses her parents were

were stalwart members of the Simi church

for

many many years wow so yes uh

that will be six o'clock this Wednesday

evening the 26th of august

and again we will have uh availability

for a limited number

of of people to attend that event in

person we will be sending out

uh an opportunity to register for that

now let me tell you about next sabbath

uh next sabbath the

29th of august our sabbath school lesson

will be

uh conducted by Lisa uh uh to petty

uh Lisa is uh part of the literature

ministry

uh leadership of the southern California

conference uh she and her husband

uh are actively involved in that and

have tremendous stories to tell about

god's leading and so

we want to encourage you to participate

in that virtual sabbath school event

uh lesson study next sabbath morning

developing a winning attitude as we

continue

the journey to making friends for god so

please join us next sabbath morning and

by the way if you didn't experience

this morning's uh live stream

sabbath school we encourage you to go

back and view it it was a powerful

presentation by dr philip simon

a retired professor of religion from

southern adventist university a great

great uh presentation that he had

next week we continue our walk by faith

sermon series and i will be presenting a

sermon called

power struggle that will be next sabbath

morning our 11 o'clock live stream

worship service i want to continue to

express

uh we pastor jan and i want to continue

to express our gratitude for your

faithfulness

even though we are not able to gather

together in person

there are so many of you that have

stepped up to the plate

and said we are not going to let this

church go down and you have been

faithful

in your generosity to the cause of

christ both through your ties and your

local offerings

and we want to thank you for that and

pastor jan tell us about how

remind us about how we can continue to

return our ties and offerings

well once again one of the most

convenient ways

is if you have internet connection is to

go to our website

and click on the online giving it will

bring up the tithe envelope you can fill

it out

and um that's that's an easy way but

you know we are very happy to make porch

visits to pick up your offering

to have a prayer with you you can mail

it

in to either to the church office to our

home and we make sure

that our assistant treasurer gets it and

and deposits it

so there's just any number of ways or

you can just give us a phone call

we're happy to to minister in whatever

way

yes so we just we just want to thank you

again

for your generosity with god um

that the work can go forward and i i do

want to say

that if you uh read my pastor phil's

footnotes uh i always include a section

on generosity and

and uh the statistics about our ties and

offerings and

again uh god is using you an amazing way

with the tie then

and that's very very important to

continue to maintain the ministry

of the southern california conference

tithe is how pastors are paid it's how

a portion of that salary of tithe goes

to pay the salaries of our teachers

and how important that is to keep this

up during this time

but in order to maintain the uh the

ministry and the functions of our church

our church budget is in need and if you

take a look you'll see that we

are a few thousand dollars in arrears on

our church budget so thank you for your

faithfulness in continuing to support

uh those needs

our uh i i just want to draw your

attention to this

uh passage of scripture that you'll see

on the screen here now

taken from second corinthians chapter

uh nine and verse seven it says so let

each one give

as he prosper purposes in his heart not

grudgingly or of necessity

for god loves a cheerful giver god loves

it

when we give out of the abundance of our

heart and gratitude

for what he's done for us and so we are

grateful

to god for that uh this morning uh

we are going to uh sing for our uh

opening hymn a song called god will take

care of you

as we are faithful to god as we keep our

eyes focused on god

he will take care of us so listen and

sing along

with this great hymn god will take care

of you

[Music]

is

[Music]

god will take care of you

god will take care of you

through every day

[Music]

god

[Music]

god will take care of you

god will take of you

through every day you're all the way

he will take care of you

god will take

[Music]

god will take care of

[Music]

you god will

take care of you through every day

or all the way he

will take care of you

god will take care of you

no matter

[Music]

[Music]

god will take care of

[Music]

god will take care of you

through every day or all the way

he will take

[Music]

god

just look this roll

i just thank you so much for your

promise to take care of

us to be with us to the end and as we

worship you on this sabbath day

we miss being together we miss the

fellowship

but we are so thankful that we have this

opportunity

to unite our prayers to you to

to come before you to worship and bow

down

and to celebrate your incredible love

and grace in our lives

we ask in a special way that you would

be with this service

that we may grow in you and that you

will bless

us today in jesus name amen

you know i want to give a shout out

today to

uh our av people who are here week after

week tirelessly helping us make sure

uh that this worship service can be live

streamed uh

uh to you and for you uh

i want to thank uh jay johnson for uh

sitting at the controls of the

audio to make sure that you can hear us

and to

uh brent butler who works tirelessly to

make sure that you can

receive our video stream and so thank

you to these people and

if you get a chance text them call them

whatever let them know how much you

appreciate what they're doing because

we couldn't do it without them and we

are extremely extremely grateful

uh for that this morning for our special

musical number i want you to listen to

this song

it's a song that uh perhaps many of you

have heard

uh many of you in our congregation are

familiar with

uh the king's heralds uh who were for a

time known as the heralds

and this great song that they sang from

many many years ago

called praise the lord and listen to the

words of this song

and think about it apply it to the

challenges you face in your life

and when you're up against those

struggles remember

praise the lord

[Music]

when you're up against a struggle

that shatters all your dreams

and your hopes have been cruelly crushed

by sins manifest

and you feel the urge within you

to submit to earthly fears

don't let the faith do stand and enslave

to disappear praise the lord

he can work through those who praise him

praise the lord

for our god inhabits praise praise the

lord

for the chains that seem to bind you

serve only to remind you that they drop

powerless behind you when you praise him

[Music]

and he wants to make us think that we

are poppers when he knows himself we're

children of the king

so lift up the mind his shield of faith

for the battle

must be won we know that jesus christ is

risen

so the words

he can work through those who praise him

praise the lord

praise the lord

for the chains seen to bind you serve

only

to remind you that they drop powerless

behind you

when you praise the lord

he can work through those who praise him

praise the lord

for the chains that seem to bind me to

remind you that they drop

powerless behind

[Music]

him when you pray

when you praise

[Music]

let's pray lord we thank you

for your amazing grace and love for us

and even in the face of trials and

challenges we know that we can praise

the lord and so today

amidst all of the challenges and fears

that we have

we come into your presence to praise

your name

and as we take time to experience this

teaching today we ask and pray that you

would anoint

our experience together that you would

touch my lips

and that you would touch our ears that

we might hear the voice of jesus

speaking to us

we ask and pray these things in christ's

name amen

it seems that the state of california

has experienced a particularly

challenging

fire season this year and and it seems

to i don't know maybe it's my

imagination but it seems to have come

earlier uh than we normally uh

anticipate and um

wow it's almost like the entire state is

on fire

from southern california and all the

challenges we've had here for the past

several weeks

all the way up to northern california it

seems there seems to be

one fire after another that has been

ignited

and now thousands of acres are ablaze

the exceptionally dry weather

the extreme heat and the unusual amount

of lightning strikes that have occurred

in our state

have created an environment that is ripe

for fire big basin

state park is california's oldest

state park and home to the largest

continuous stand of ancient coast

redwoods

and this park is situated just south of

the san francisco bay

area in the santa cruz area some of the

giant redwoods

there are more than 50 feet tall in fact

there are some that are as tall as the

statue of liberty

some of these redwoods are believed to

date back to the time of christ

and uh you know two thousand years old

now many of these uh trees are gone

ravaging fire

more than 50 000 acres

containing these iconic giants

have gone up in flames

our own seventh-day adventist owned and

operated

uh college in northern california

pacific union college is currently under

evacuation

due to the fires on wednesday evening

adventist health saint elena was

evacuated

patients were removed from the hospital

as

multiple fires approached and they came

within just a few miles of the hospital

and it is still under threat

and adventist health facilities in other

locations of northern california clear

lake sonora

these are currently under threat as well

smoke is in the air throughout southern

california

as these fires rage i've seen many posts

on social media here

in uh right here in the simi valley area

of people complaining

uh just in the last few days about the

extreme amount of smoke and

there's one thing it has generated and

that is some amazingly beautiful sunsets

but we don't want the smoke we don't

want the flames we don't want the fire

many of you have lived here in southern

california for some time and you've

experienced

flames up close and personal

some of you have even experienced loss

from fire

some of our own members of our

congregation have experienced that a few

years ago

and most of us don't like heat and we

don't like flames

i can imagine that it was a hot day

that day on the plains of dura

but it was about to get even hotter

i would invite you this morning to open

your bibles to that

familiar story one that we know so well

in daniel chapter 3.

daniel chapter 3 an amazing story that

we find here

it's a story no doubt you have read and

heard countless times

it's one of those faith-building stories

that inspires you every time

you hear it and so we want to take a

look once again at this story that takes

place

in daniel chapter 3. so

open your bibles as we read this

together and i will be reading from the

new king james version

nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of

gold

whose height was 60 cubits and its width

six cubits

he set it up on the plain of dura in the

province of babylon

now the scripture here says that it was

60 cubits high

that means that it was approximately 90

feet

tall i mean you can imagine how tall

this thing was

it it it it stood uh

erect and could be seen for miles and

miles on the flat plains of dura

and verse 2 says and king nebuchadnezzar

sent word to gather together the satraps

the administrators the governors the

councilors the treasures the judges the

magistrates

and all the officials of the province to

come to the dedication of the image

which king nebuchadnezzar had set up

he summons everybody hey this is going

to be a grand and glorious day

now we can't help but believe that

nebuchadnezzar

was doing this made this huge image of

gold i mean can you

imagine how much gold it took to create

this image that's 90 feet tall

and about nine feet wide i mean a

huge amount of gold and and we can't

help but believe

that nebuchadnezzar did this in the face

of

the dream that he had in daniel chapter

two and you remember that dream where

daniel interpreted this dream and and

nebuchadnezzar was told that he was the

head of gold but that his kingdom would

soon meet demise

well that didn't set too well with

nebuchadnezzar and so

i'm thinking that in an effort to try to

make a statement

that his kingdom would never be

destroyed he erects this huge

metal image entirely of gold 90 feet

tall

and he is using this image now to bring

allegiance and honor to himself

he wants everybody to know that he's in

control and he's in charge so he calls

all of his administrators

all of his officials he calls all of the

people from that region to come

and they are going to have a dedication

to this gold this image of gold

and so verse 2 tells us how they all

assembled there

uh to this special dedication and then

verse 4 says

then a herald cried out aloud

to you it is commanded o peoples nations

and languages

that at the time you hear the sound of

the horn flute harp liar and sultry

in symphony with all kinds of music you

shall fall down and worship the gold

image that king

nebuchadnezzar has set up

and whoever does not fall down in

worship shall be cast immediately

into the midst of a burning fiery

furnace

so the command is given said listen

this is a time for you to show homage

and worship and it wasn't just

worshiping an image

because that image was a representation

of nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom

so he was wanting people he was wanting

all who were under his

uh authority to recognize his authority

to bow in submission

and to honor him his kingdom would never

fail this was the statement that

nebuchadnezzar was trying to make that

day

and it says in verse seven so at that

time when all the people heard the sound

of the horn

flute harp and liar in symphony

with all kinds of music on all people

nations and languages

fell down and worshiped the gold image

which king nebuchadnezzar had set up

verse 8 therefore at that time

certain chaldeans came forward and

accused the jews

the command had gone forward all of

these instruments

the band started playing

and they they started the music

and everyone was supposed to bow down

but there were some people who didn't

and there were individuals in

nebuchadnezzar's court that said hey

wait a second nebuchadnezzar you need to

know something

some of these jews that you brought here

from captives from jerusalem

they didn't bow down to you they're not

honoring you

and verse 9 says they spoke and said to

the king nebuchadnezzar o king live

forever

you o king have made a decree that

everyone who hears the sound of the horn

flute heart liar and sultry in symphony

with all kinds of music shall fall down

and worship the gold image

and whoever does not fall down and

worship shall be cast into the midst of

a fiery furnace

there are verse 12 certain jews whom you

have set over the affairs of the

province of babylon

he wanted these these uh tattletails

wanted nebuchadnezzar to know that some

of these jews that he had placed in high

authority and you remember

shadrach meshach and abednego the three

hebrews who served with daniel

how they had stood up in verse one and

god had honored them and so they were

placed

in special authority in regions of

babylon

and now these tattletails are coming and

saying hey listen these guys aren't

honoring you

they didn't fall down they didn't bow

down and worship you need to take care

of this nebuchadnezzar

and verse 13 says then nebuchadnezzar in

rage and fury gave the command to bring

shadrach meshach and abednego

so they brought these men uh before the

king and nebuchadnezzar verse 14 spoke

saying to them

is it true come on man tell me

shadrach meshach and abednego that you

do not serve my gods or worship

the gold image which i have set up come

on shoot straight with me

what's going on and we can only imagine

uh what happened there when all of this

took place as the music had

had struck up i mean when that took

place

shadrach meshach and abednego had a

decision that they needed to make

but there were no conversations that

took place between shadrach meshach and

abednego there was no

hey shadrach you've got a cockroach

crawling across your sandal you know why

don't you just bend down there right now

and

and swat it off

meshack when was the last time that you

cleaned the dirt from underneath your

toenails you know why don't you bend

down right now and

and and scrape that toe jam out of there

what's the matter with you boy get down

there

no that didn't happen shadrach meshach

and abednego

didn't need to look for any excuse to

bow down

they didn't need to make an appearance

that they were bowing down

and so now they're appearing before

nebuchadnezzar and he's calling them

hey listen what's going on give me some

accountability here i hear that you

didn't bow down

and listen to what happens next

verse 15. now if you are ready at the

time

you hear the sound of the horn flute

harp liar and sultry

in symphony with all kinds of music and

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 now the response that

shadrach meshach and abednego gives

is very interesting listen to this verse

16 shadrach meshach and abednego

answered and said to the king oh

nebuchadnezzar

we have no need to answer you in this

matter

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

what shadrach meshach and abednego

were telling king nebuchadnezzar that

day is we don't need a second take

we don't need a rerun of the symphony we

don't need

another opportunity we made our choice

we made our decision

and i don't care how many times you

strike up the band we're not bowing down

and notice what they said they said

our god is to able to deliver us

from the fiery furnace but then verse 18

but if not let it be known to you o king

that we do not serve your gods nor will

we worship the god

the gold image which you have set up

hey our decision is made

again we don't need a rerun we don't

need a retake on this thing

you could be here all day and you could

play the band all day but we are not

getting down to bow down

our loyalty is to yahweh god

he is the only one that we will serve

and they made it abundantly clear

to king nebuchadnezzar

it's interesting the words

that they said in verse 16

shadrach meshach and abednego answered

and said to the king o

nebuchadnezzar we have no need to answer

you in this matter in other words

we don't need to defend ourselves

our choice has been made shadrach

meshach and abednego didn't make their

decision

that day on the plane of dora this

wasn't some

instant uh decision they made they

didn't suddenly huddle together as

they're standing there before

this great metal image and say hey

listen man what are we gonna do

you know when that when that band

strikes up when we hear the harp the

liar the flute all of this other

these other instruments and they start

playing this grand symphony

what are we gonna do no they didn't have

that kind of a huddle time

you see their decision had been had

settled

been settled long before this event ever

took place

they didn't need a time to to uh

cogitate on that choice the decision had

been made

long before

a number of years ago

our nephew told us an interesting story

he was working in the seattle area at

the time

working for microsoft corporation

and he had a a very good job with

microsoft and

and his particular division many of the

people would

after work they would have tailgate

parties in the parking lot and they

would

you know have food and they would have

their booze and all of this kind of

stuff and they'd party in

and kendall never stayed for those

events

he was nice to those people they were

his friends but he didn't stay for their

parties he always went on

he told us that um on one particular

occasion

that uh their division of microsoft had

had a large um event um

on a huge ship uh out in

uh puget sound they had rented it for an

evening and chartered it there and

and they were gonna have this huge party

on board and their whole division was

going to meet and

have a wonderful time and and so there

they were and there was lots of

of food and lots of booze going on

and kendall said that one guy came up

and he said folks i have an announcement

to make and he caught everyone's

attention

everyone was silent as they were

listening for what this man was going to

say

and he says i want to call kendall

forward and he called kendall

and he said kendall he says uh i i have

the p i have to tell the people

something about you

and he says you know he says kendall has

never had

a glass of alcohol and so today

right here in front of us kendall is

going to drink

his first beer right in front of all of

us

and kendall is thinking wow what's going

on here

and everybody's cheering and they're

shouting because kendall is going to

drink his first beer

they noticed that kendall had never

partied with them out in their tailgate

parties in the parking lot of microsoft

but now he was put on the spot kendall

is going to drink his very first beer

and they handed kendall this beer and

kendall took the beer

and he called another good friend of his

forward who

regularly drunk drank beers and he said

hey listen he says i want you to know

that today my good friend so-and-so

is going to drink my first beer for me

and he handed his beer to that man

and everybody applauded because of the

stand that kendall had made

you see kendall didn't make his choice

that day he didn't make his choice he

didn't make his decision when he was put

on the spot

that decision had been made a long time

ago

and some decisions in life you have to

settle

long before you're required to act

as the story goes on

you recall what happens verse 19 says

that nebuchadnezzar was full of fury it

says the expression

on his face changed towards shadrach

meshach and abednego

he had been friendly with shadrach

michigan

benigo he had recalled the times that

they had served him and they were loyal

to him but now he was enraged these guys

would not submit to his authority

and so now he's he's pulling out all the

stops

and he commanded verse 20 that certain

mighty men of valor

would take and bind shadrach meshach and

abednego in ropes and would take and

throw them into the fiery furnace

with their coats and their garments on

and verse

22 says therefore because the king's

command was urgent

and the furnace exceedingly hot the

flames of the fire killed those men who

took up

shadrach meshach and abednego so here it

is these guys

are are running these these these uh

these uh

guards have taken and they have tied up

shadrach meshach and abednego

and they're taking them to throw them

into the fiery furnace and as they're

throwing them into the flames

they themselves life is snuffed out of

them

in that moment the heat is too intense

they cannot endure

and then verse 24 then king

nebuchadnezzar was astonished

and he rose in haste and spoke saying to

his counselors

did we not cast three men bound into the

midst of the fire

they answered and said to the king true

o king

verse 25 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

nebuchadnezzar's anger and fury

is suddenly abated as he sees this

miracle taking place right before his

face

he sees his guards who have thrown

shadrach meshach and abednego into the

flames

he has seen their life snuffed out of

him in an instant

but he sees shadrach meshach and

abednego walking around

in the midst of the flames in that fiery

furnace whose heat is so incredibly

intense it's seven times hotter than

it's ever been before

and it isn't just shadrach meshach and

abednego

freely walking about because the ropes

that have bound them

have suddenly disintegrated

there is a fourth individual and

nebuchadnezzar recognizes that an

individual as one who is like the son of

god

verse 26 then nebuchadnezzar went near

the mouth of the burning fiery furnace

and spoke saying shadrach meshach and

abednego

servants of the most high god come out

and come here

then shadrach meshach and abednego came

from the midst of the fire

and the satraps administrators governors

and the king's counselors gathered

together

and they saw these men on whose bodies

the fire had

no power but it wasn't just that

it says the hair of their head was not

even singed

and the smell of fire was not on them

these guys did not even reek of smoke

now can you imagine that you know

earlier this summer when our

grandchildren were here

and it was cooler back in the month of

june in the evening they wanted to build

a little campfire and i have this little

campfire

this little fire pit in the back of my

uh of our yard and

and so i got some sticks and you know a

few logs and stuff and

and we built this amazing fire i'm gonna

tell you when i came in that night

after being out there and i went to

remove my shirt

i couldn't help but smell it as i was

pulling it up over my head

and it reeked of smoke we all know what

that's like we've gone camping or sat

around a campfire we know what that's

all about

but here is uh shadrach meshach and

abednego

they have been in the midst of the

flames and yet they don't

even smell like smoke there is not

any evidence that the flames have even

touched them

nebuchadnezzar smoke spoke verse 28

saying

blessed be the god of shadrach meshach

and abednego who sent his angel

and delivered his servants who trusted

in him

and they have frustrated the king's word

and yielded their bodies

and they should not serve nor worship

any god except their own god

therefore i make a decree that any

people nation or language which speaks

anything amiss against the god of

shadrach meshach and abednego

shall be cut in pieces and their houses

shall be made and ash heap

because there is no other god who can

deliver

like this nebuchadnezzar is absolutely

amazed

but here he goes again because he's

issuing another decree

he had issued the decree that everyone

should bow down and worship this great

metal image this image of gold

and and now he is stunned and amazed

at the power of the almighty god and so

he makes a decree

that anyone who speaks a miss who says

any

anything slanderous about yahweh god the

god of shadrach meshach and abednego

will be cut into pieces and their homes

will be

made a pile of ash

verse 30 then the king promoted shadrach

meshach and abednego

in the province of babylon wow

what an amazing amazing story that we

find here

in daniel chapter 3.

there are three lessons that i would

like to draw your attention to today

from this amazing story

first of all overarching over all of

these is a consistent theme that we find

throughout the book of daniel

every single chapter in the book of

daniel tells us

that god is in control god was in

control in daniel chapter one

when daniel and these three hebrew

cohorts of his

were challenged about uh eating the

king's food

in daniel chapter 2 this great metal

image it showed that god was ultimately

in control because it

it it depicted the fact that god's

kingdom would be set up one day and last

forever and ever

and now here in daniel chapter 3 we once

again find

that god is in control because god

intervenes

in the flames in the face of flames that

shadrach meshach and abednego are

experiencing

and proves to nebuchadnezzar and all

others

that god is in control

but there are three key lessons that i

would like for you to take away from

this story lesson number one

the walk by faith doesn't deliver from

the fire

it takes us through the fire and

unfortunately

many christians don't understand that

they think that

listen because i have shown allegiance

to god because i have said god you are

my

lord and you are my king that you're

going to save me from the flames i'll

never face the flames

no this story doesn't tell us that we'll

never experience fire

it just tells us that jesus will take us

through the flames

when you go through the flames of life

god is there

many of us feel like we're going through

those flames in those

troubles times right now the coronavirus

pandemic

the civil unrest in our nation the the

political polarity that exists

the extreme political divide

the tropical storms and hurricanes

looming in the atlantic and even the in

the pacific that are generating all

these lightning strikes that

that are being experienced here in the

state of california

the intense heat

top it off with wildfires and many feel

that hell

is already happening

but there's one thing that we need to

understand

when the time of trouble for you

is not in the future but is today

jesus is there when the children

you have brought up as christians have

left the values that you have

given to them in the heartache of your

life

god is there when your heart is broken

because

your marriage is falling apart when

you've lost your job

when you get a routine physical and the

doctor

discovers that you have terminal cancer

when you're going through the flames of

life and it seems

that you're being consumed with

discouragement and depression

through your tears because in the flames

of your life

jesus is there in the heartache of your

life

jesus is there in the disappointment of

your life

jesus is there and the bible tells us in

deuteronomy chapter 31 and verse 6

be strong and of good courage do not

fear nor be afraid

for the lord your god he is the one who

goes with you

he will not leave you nor forsake you

through the challenges that come that

came to the

three hebrews god was teaching them to

have greater faith and greater

courage it was not because god did not

love them

that they went through this fire it was

because he saw

in them something valuable and precious

that needed to be refined by the flames

of difficulty

some of you are thinking right now you

know what

i don't need these challenges um

enough already i don't need

the heat and i don't need the flames

every life experiences heartache

every life experiences sorrow the world

we are living in

is not always kind every one of us

sometime in our life is going to go

through the fire

and believe it or not often the flames

are a good thing

in matthew chapter 3 we read about an

unquenchable

fire and actually it's a good fire

listen to the words of john the baptist

recorded in matthew chapter 3 verses 11

and 12.

he says i indeed baptize you with water

and repentance

but he who is coming after me is

mightier than i

whose sandals i am not worthy to carry

he will baptize you with

with the holy spirit and fire

his winnowing fan is in his hand and he

will thoroughly clean out his threshing

floor and gather his weed into the barn

but he will burn up the chaff with

unquenchable

fire wow john the baptist knew all about

fire

the satanic influence and the flames of

jealousy and hatred

brought about john the baptist's

untimely death listen to these words

from the book

testimonies for the church volume 1.

i saw that the enemy will contend either

for the usefulness

of or the life of the godly and will try

to mar their peace as long as they live

in this world

but his power is limited he may cause

the furnace to be heated but jesus

and angels will watch the trusting

christian

that nothing may be consumed but the

dross

wow hallelujah jesus

is there and that unquenchable fire is

there

to burn the junk in our lives that we

don't need

lesson number two daniel 3 gives us a

preview of the future

daniel 3 isn't just a heartwarming and

yes pun

intended bedtime story that we tell to

our

children and grandchildren it's a story

revealing what's to come i want you to

notice an interesting parallel between

daniel chapter 3 and revelation

chapter 13 as it pertains to end times

events in daniel chapter 3 there's a

powerful

world leader revelation chapter 13

there's a powerful world leader in

daniel chapter 3

there's compelled worship in revelation

chapter 13

there's compelled worship in daniel

chapter 3

there's a universal decree in revelation

13

there's a universal decree there's

coming a time

when we need to take a stand and if

we're going to take a stand then

we need to quit crawling now

if we're going to walk by faith friends

if we're going to cross that finish line

ahead

then we need to grow our faith now

and if we can't face the flames today

what are we going to do about the flames

that are coming tomorrow and in the

future

you know in a couple of weeks our nation

will celebrate

or should i not say celebrate

commemorate

9 11. in fact the 19th anniversary hard

to believe

19 years ago that 9 11 happened

did you notice what happened in our

country after 9 11

there was a div there was a a a a

an intense fear that came across people

but that intense fear birthed

a sense of purpose

a trial somehow do that for us

and and people seem to be get uh begin

to get involved and take action and

and and and it spurred people on to

be loyal and compassionate and kind to

other people

it was through that act of of

persecution that that that certain

things happened

in our nation and i've often thought

well you know maybe

those flames need to be turned up a

little bit higher i know that we're

feeling the flames of the pandemic and

many other things today loss of job

and and all kinds of things

but maybe we need to experience a little

bit more of that unquenchable fire to

burn away the junk in our lives

lesson number three daniel 3 reveals a

compassionate

redeemer when shadrach meshach and

abednego went into the flames

they didn't go alone many of us have

experienced divine intervention through

challenges and hardship

even during this pandemic i've had

people tell me that

this experience has brought them closer

to jesus

if we look to our past

we can find spiritual markers in our

lives that will remind us of times that

god has intervened in our past

many of us have experienced times when

things got tough

but jesus was in the flames for us

we need to remember those events and

trust the lord

will get us through the challenges of

whatever it is that we're facing now

i love this quote taken from the

writings of ellen white

life sketches page 196 she says in

reviewing our past history

having traveled over every step of

advance to our present standing i can

say praise god

as i see what the lord has has wrought i

am filled with astonishment

and with confidence in christ as leader

we have nothing to fear for the future

except as we shall forget the way the

lord has led us

and his teaching in our past history

today as we are going through fiery

trials

that seem like they're going to consume

us

remember that the flames only burn

the ropes remember

that you can look through the smoke

through the flames through the tears

and see the son of god with his arms

around you

embracing you whispering encouragement

in your

ears he's walking in the fire with you

friends right now

psalm 34 verses 17 and 19 says the

righteous cry out and the lord hears

and delivers them out of all their

troubles many are the afflictions of the

righteous but the lord delivers them

from them all

god never said he wouldn't we wouldn't

experience the flames

but he said that he would deliver us

he did that for shadrach meshach and

abednego because of their stand for him

and friends

we can be certain that god will do that

for us

we are certain to experience the fiery

trials of life

but jesus will leap into the flames with

us and the good news is that jesus

never fails listen to this amazing song

sung by the

emmanuel quartet jesus never fails

and may the message of this song remind

you that no matter what you're going

through in life right now

jesus never fails

[Music]

foreign

so many soldiers have tested him

throughout the course of time

so many still reach out to him

with broken hearts and minds

and every one of them will say

with no exception that they find

jesus never

fails

even in the days of old

he brought his people through

and then he came to prove his love

when he died for me and you

then he rose again to prove

that every story had been true

jesus never

fails

jesus never jesus

jesus never fails

you might as well get thee behind me

satan

you cannot prevail because jesus

never fails

sometimes this world brings trouble

that i find so hard to bear

i know i could not make it without

jesus being there it's so encouraging to

know however deep we're in despair

that jesus never

fails

so what can i do to prove to you

tell me how can you deny

no one told facts no mysteries it's

all so cut and dry on the witness stand

of your life

i'll be the first to testify

that jesus never

fails

jesus never fails

jesus never fails

you might as well get thee behind me

satan

you cannot prevail because

jesus never fails

jesus never fails

jesus

you might as well get thee behind me

satan you cannot prevail

because

i know jesus jesus

never fails

[Music]

jesus never fails

you might as well get thee behind me

satan

you cannot prevail because

jesus never

[Music]

jesus

never

today wherever you are watching this

message

remember jesus never fails

he will always be there with you

and as you face the challenges of life

as you face the flames

remember jesus is walking through those

flames with you

because he has said i will never leave

you

nor forsake you

won't you decide

right now to invite jesus

to join you as you walk through the

challenges of life let's pray

heavenly father we are continually

reminded

that we are living in a war zone

challenges of life all around us the

coronavirus pandemic

fires that are blazing in our midst

tropical storms

civil unrest all kinds of chaos

but even through all of this mess we are

grateful for your promise and your

assurance

that you will walk through the flames

with us

and we thank you and we praise your name

so lord come into our lives right now

and may the peace that passes all

understanding

guard our hearts and minds until at last

we see you face to face

may that day be soon we ask and pray in

christ's name amen

we want to thank you for joining us

today in our

worship service here at the simi valley

seventh-day adventist church

and to remind you that pastor jan and i

will not be in the parking lot following

this uh worship uh service it's just too

hot because of the extreme heat

and uh we want you to stay home and we

want you to be cool so

don't come out uh but we do want you to

join us again

at um at at 6 30 this evening

uh when we have our baptism we'll be

live streaming our baptism

uh remind you that that will take place

at 6 30

right here on the same youtube channel

simi valley seventh-day adventist church

youtube channel the baptism of bridget

staubach

so please join us for that special event

at 6 30 this evening

and again if there are some of you that

would like to register

uh i have not checked some of it it may

already be full

uh but if not uh you're welcome to come

if you pre-register

uh also to remind you next sabbath

morning at 9 30

we have once again our uh zoom sabba

school class with our

simultaneous live stream to our youtube

channel

uh so join us for that with uh lisa

uh to petty from the literature ministry

department of the southern california

conference

and the next sabbath morning again our

worship stream live stream continuing

this series called

walk by faith a sermon i call power

struggle

may god be with you may he grant you

peace may he give you strength

and may you know of his presence as you

face the challenges

and the and the fire and the flames of

life on this wayward planet

god bless you and keep you

English (auto-generated)