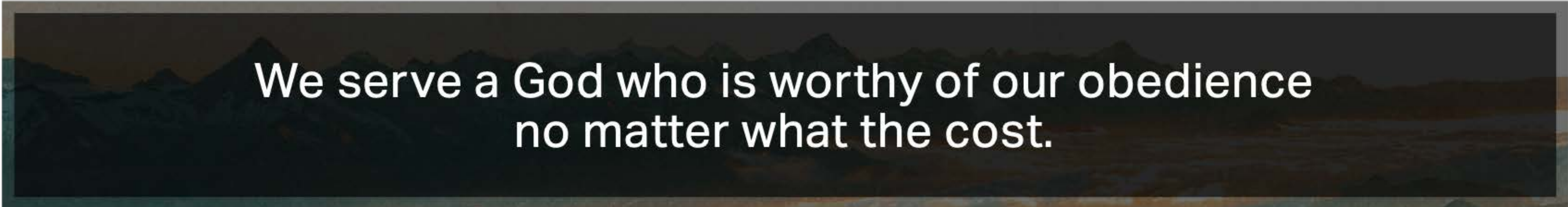


TREVOR CHRISTMAS ——— *Men's Pastor*



RISK MANAGEMENT

Daniel 3



We serve a God who is worthy of our obedience
no matter what the cost.



1

Nebuchadnezzar set up a risky **ultimatum**.

DANIEL 3:1-7 (ESV)

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura,

DANIEL 3:1-7 (ESV)

in the province of Babylon. ² Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors,

DANIEL 3:1-7 (ESV)

the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image

DANIEL 3:1-7 (ESV)

that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³ Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers,

DANIEL 3:1-7 (ESV)

the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar

DANIEL 3:1-7 (ESV)

had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁴ And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded,

DANIEL 3:1-7 (ESV)

O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵ that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music,

DANIEL 3:1-7 (ESV)

you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ And whoever does not fall down

DANIEL 3:1-7 (ESV)

and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.”

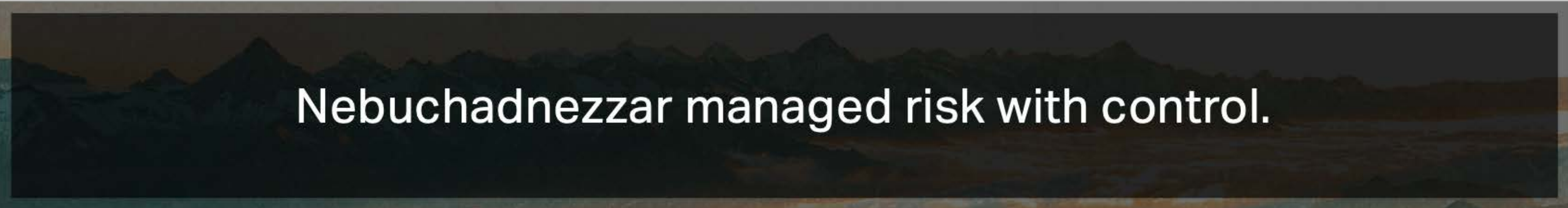
DANIEL 3:1-7 (ESV)

⁷ Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music,

DANIEL 3:1-7 (ESV)

all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.





Nebuchadnezzar managed risk with control.



2

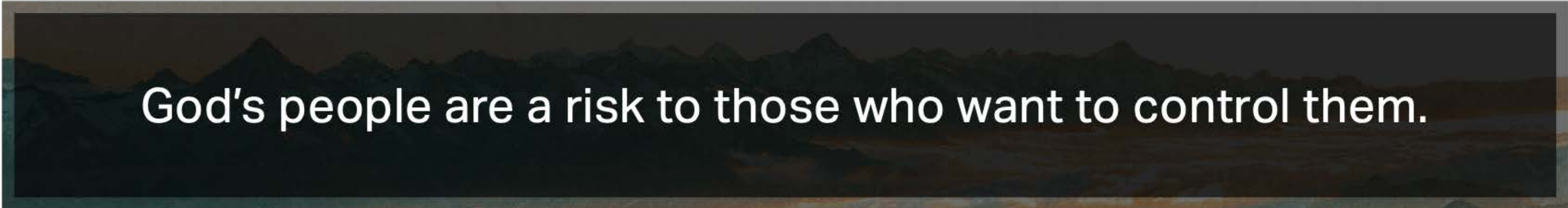
Obedience to God is worth **risking your life for.**

DANIEL 3:12 (ESV)

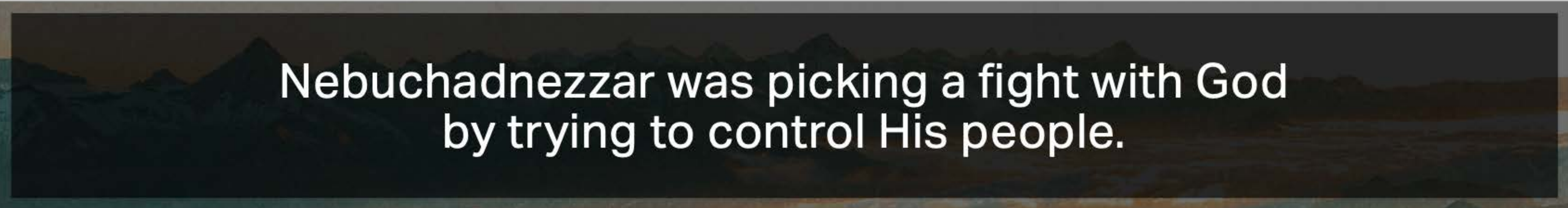
There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

DANIEL 3:12 (ESV)

These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.



God's people are a risk to those who want to control them.



Nebuchadnezzar was picking a fight with God
by trying to control His people.

DANIEL 3:14-15 (ESV)

¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them,
“Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,

DANIEL 3:14-15 (ESV)

that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if you are ready when you hear the sound

DANIEL 3:14-15 (ESV)

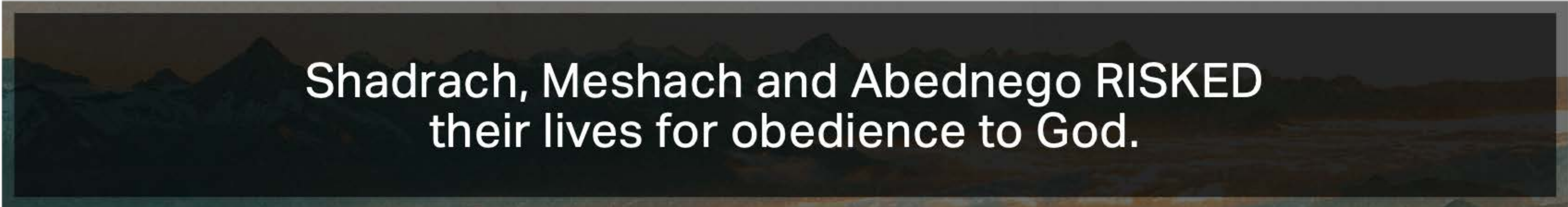
of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good.

DANIEL 3:14-15 (ESV)

But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.

DANIEL 3:14-15 (ESV)

And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"



Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego RISKED
their lives for obedience to God.

DANIEL 3:16-18 (ESV)

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king,
"O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

DANIEL 3:16-18 (ESV)

¹⁷ If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

DANIEL 3:16-18 (ESV)

¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

DALE RALPH DAVIS

"As if they were saying, "We don't know what our God will do,
O King; you may turn us into puddles of carbon;

DALE RALPH DAVIS

but in one sense it doesn't matter; the bottom line is that we will not serve your gods or worship your image.'



DALE RALPH DAVIS

So they were unsure of God's circumstantial will
(whether they would escape)



DALE RALPH DAVIS

but were sure of God's revealed will
("You shall have no other gods besides me')."

FIVE QUALITIES OF THESE FAITHFUL, GODLY MEN

Character - Conviction - Commitment
Confidence - Community

HOW WERE THEY OBEDIENT?

They TRUSTED God's ABILITY. They TRUSTED God's PLANS.
They REJECTED Man's IDOLS.

EXODUS 20:3-5 (ESV)

³ You shall have no other gods before me.

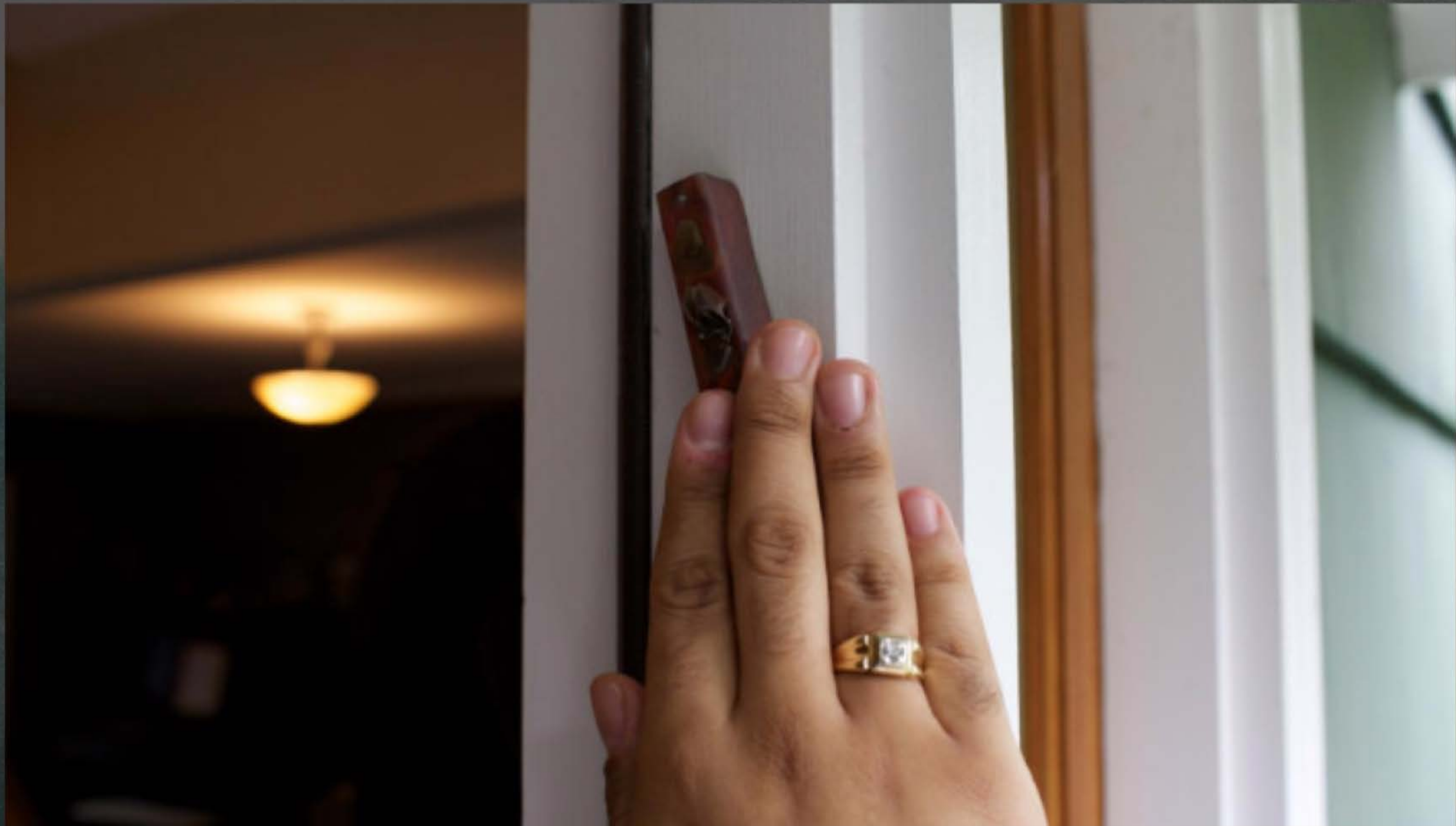
⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image,

EXODUS 20:3-5 (ESV)

or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above,
or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

EXODUS 20:3-5 (ESV)

⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them,
for I the LORD your God am a jealous God.





DEUTERONOMY 6:4-7 (ESV)

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-7 (ESV)

⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your might.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-7 (ESV)

⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.
⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children,

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-7 (ESV)

and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Which one of these qualities is a growth area for you?
How can you work this kind of faith and obedience into your life?

3

When we worship God with obedience, we can trust Him with **the results**.

DANIEL 3:19-25 (ESV)

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

DANIEL 3:19-25 (ESV)

He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰ And he ordered some of the mighty men

DANIEL 3:19-25 (ESV)

of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,
and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

DANIEL 3:19-25 (ESV)

²¹ Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments,



DANIEL 3:19-25 (ESV)

and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace.

DANIEL 3:19-25 (ESV)

²² Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach,

DANIEL 3:19-25 (ESV)

Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

DANIEL 3:19-25 (ESV)

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound

DANIEL 3:19-25 (ESV)

into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."
25 He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound,

DANIEL 3:19-25 (ESV)

walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt;
and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

ISAIAH 43:1-3 (ESV)

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you;



ISAIAH 43:1-3 (ESV)

I have called you by name, you are mine.

ISAIAH 43:1-3 (ESV)

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

ISAIAH 43:1-3 (ESV)

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

ISAIAH 43:1-3 (ESV)

³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

DANIEL 3:26-30 (ESV)

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,

DANIEL 3:26-30 (ESV)

servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!"
Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.

DANIEL 3:26-30 (ESV)

²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had

DANIEL 3:26-30 (ESV)

any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed,

DANIEL 3:26-30 (ESV)

and no smell of fire had come upon them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach,

DANIEL 3:26-30 (ESV)

and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants,
who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command,

DANIEL 3:26-30 (ESV)

and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree:

DANIEL 3:26-30 (ESV)

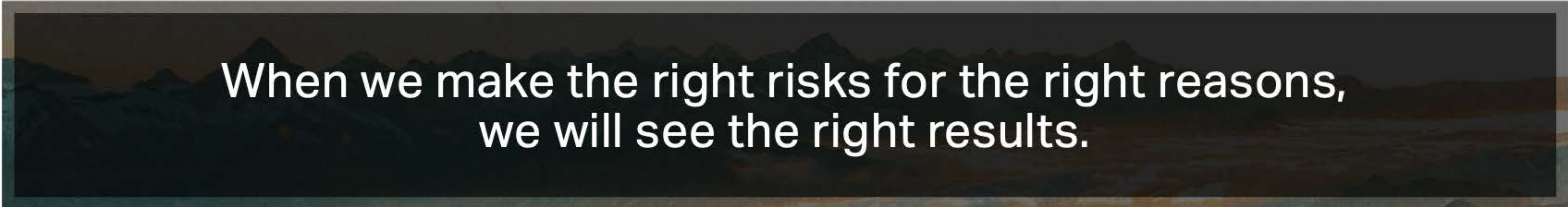
Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn

DANIEL 3:26-30 (ESV)

limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins,
for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way."

DANIEL 3:26-30 (ESV)

³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach,
and Abednego in the province of Babylon.



When we make the right risks for the right reasons,
we will see the right results.



BISHOPS HUGH LATIMER & NICHOLAS RIDLEY

"Be of good heart, brother, for God will either assuage the fury of the flame or else strengthen us to abide it."

BISHOPS HUGH LATIMER & NICHOLAS RIDLEY

"Be of good comfort, Mr. Ridley, and play the man!"

BISHOPS HUGH LATIMER & NICHOLAS RIDLEY

We shall see this day light such a candle, by God's grace,
in England, as I trust never shall be put out."



APPLICATION QUESTION

Are you good with trusting God with the results of your obedience?

4

Five things **Nebuchadnezzar** learned about God from the **obedience** of the boys:



4

a. God is able to **deliver**.



4

b. God is worthy of **worship**.



4

c. God is worthy of **trust**.



4

d. God is worthy of **obedience**.



4

e. God is worthy of **respect**.



APPLICATION QUESTION

What are you learning through the obedience of the boys?

ROMANS 12:1-2 (ESV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,

ROMANS 12:1-2 (ESV)

holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed

ROMANS 12:1-2 (ESV)

by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

