"Conform or else!!!"

…but if not, (v18)

Where do people get such a courageous faith?

1. Fake gods demand that we "*CONFORM or ELSE!!!"*

Nebuchadnezzar – a golden god v1, prominent people v2, whole world v4

"Perhaps Nebuchadnezzar can get us to heaven (Babel - Genesis 11)"

Subtle and charming assimilation quickly becomes *"conform or else!!!"*

2. But faithful believers still serve the true God, business as usual.

"We don't need to answer you…
…our God can save us, he is able,
…but if not, *we're still not bowing down."*

Even when persecution comes we serve God as we did before, business as usual

Faithful believers serve God, whether he makes them prosperous now or not

3. Because He can save us from death.

God undoes Nebuchadnezzar's best attempts to kill his people.

God laughs at puny people who think they are gods.

His rescue takes place by a fourth person (a prefiguring of the Christ).

Each test is whether we believe our God is the sovereign one.

"All you can do is kill us, but our God can walk us safely through the other side"

Nebuchadnezzar's own rescue.