

The Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3)

SUMMARY

- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego remain true to their God in the face of a certain, agonizing death.
- Notwithstanding separation from their parents and being subjected to corrupting influences, they do not waver in their faith in God and obedience to His Word.
- They refuse to be assimilated with a sinful culture.
- God is able to deliver those who trust in Him.
- God is superior to any other authority/power.
- God delegates power that He is able to overcome or withdraw.

“...our God is able to deliver us...” (Daniel 3:17)

Practical Application

Like Daniel and his three friends, we live in a world that is hostile to our faith in the one true God. Satan is the spiritual ruler of this world (Jn 12:31; 2 Cor 4:4), just as he was the spiritual ruler of Babylon (in Daniel's time). Like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, we must stand behind a shield of faith in Jesus Christ, who is able to quench the fiery darts of the evil one (Eph 6:16).

Christians should expect to experience pressure and temptation to conform to the corrupt ways of the culture they live in, just as the heroes of Daniel 3 did. The pressure to "take the path of least resistance" may come from government, employers, peers, or even family. "Giving in" will have its advantages (e.g., financial, acceptance by others, avoidance of persecution etc.). God's Word exhorts us not to be conformed to this world, but to have minds that are transformed by the Spirit of Christ (Rom 12:2). When we have an unwavering mind to trust Christ and to please Him, we will be blessed, just as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were. Standing firm in Christ will not spare us from His sufferings, but will always result in a revelation of His glory and resurrection power – in us and through us (Heb 11:32-40; 2 Cor 4:8-11; Php 3:7-11).

"Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13:15)