

THE FIERY FURNACE

Daniel 3

Introduction

In this chapter the issue of “conviction or conformity” arises. This time the godly leadership and influence of Daniel was absent, and the remaining three faithful Jews, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were forced to make a difficult decision on their own. The faithfulness of God’s children and the testimony of God’s character were at stake – each dependent on the other. Faithfulness or compromise, life or death were at stake when these three believers in God lived under the absolute authority of a proud monarch that demanded their worship.

Aim of the Lesson

Obey God, even if your life is threatened, and you will give a weighty witness to the unsaved. “...(T)hat the trial of your faith being more precious than gold that perishes, though it be tried by fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ” (1 Pet 1:6, 7).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer

I. Dedication of the Golden Image (3:1-7)

1. What kind of idols are believers tempted to worship today?
2. What kind of an idol will the world be tempted to worship during the Tribulation? (Rev 13:14-17)
3. What is found in Daniel 3:4, 7 that gives us a clue as to who the king called to worship the golden image?
4. What was used to accompany the worship of the golden image? (3:5, 7).
5. What threat did the king use to make the people worship him and his idol? (3:6; like Rev 13:15)

II. Determination of the Hebrew Youths (3:8-18)

6. Who made three accusations against these Jewish friends of Daniel? (3:10-12)
7. How did the king react to these accusations? (3:13-15)
8. What was the first response of these three young Jews to the king? (3:16)
9. What were the three parts of their second response to the king? (3:17-18)

III. Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace (3:19-27)

10. How did the king react to the young Jews’ response? (3:19-20)
11. What happened to the soldiers that bound the Jews and threw them into the fiery furnace? (3:21-22)
12. What did the king see that amazed him? (3:24-25)
13. When the king called the men to come out of the fiery furnace, what further amazed everyone? (3:27)

IV. Decree of the Great Nebuchadnezzar (3:28-30)

14. What did the king admire in these three young Jewish men? (3:28)
15. What decree did the king make? (3:29)
16. What special favor did the king show to these three men? (3:30)
17. Are you prepared to obey God at any cost so you can glorify Him before the lost?

BE OBEDIENT TO GOD AT ANY COST AND YOU WILL GLORIFY HIM BEFORE THE LOST.

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