

“The Book Of Daniel”
Faith In The Face Of Fire (3:1-30)

Introduction

1. Even though, back at the beginning of June we had a lesson from this chapter titled “Men On Fire” there are plenty more lessons we can learn from these three brave men Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego.

I. Their Trial

- a. The Events Leading Up To It
 - i. Nebuchadnezzar’s image and his command to worship it (3:1-7)
 - ii. The accusation against Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. (3:8-12)
 - iii. The king’s threat of the fiery furnace (3:13-15)
- b. The Nature Of Their Trial
 - i. To save their situation
 - ii. To sacrifice their conscience (Exodus 20:4-6)
- c. We May Face Similar Trials Today

II. Their Testimony

- a. They Demonstrated Faith
 - i. In the power of God (3:16-17)
 - ii. In the will of God (3:18)
- b. They Determined To Serve God No Matter What
 - i. Like Job in his affliction (Job 1:20-21; 13:15)
 - ii. Like Habakkuk who praised God even in suffering (Habakkuk 3:17-19)
 - iii. Like the apostles who rejoiced to suffer in His name (Acts 5:27-29)
 - iv. Like Polycarp who offered a prayer as he was being burned at the stake (Martyrdom of Polycarp)

III. Their Triumph

- a. The Rest Of The Chapter Reveals...
- b. Consider What Their Trials Brought Them
 - i. A new sense of freedom! (James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-6)
 - ii. A new sense of fellowship! (Hebrews 12:5-11; Revelation 3:12,21; 7:13-17)
 - iii. A new opportunity of service! (Matthew 25:21; Revelation 2:25-27)

Conclusion

1. What a wonderful example of faith in these three men! Committed to God no matter the circumstances or the outcome!
2. What kind of faith do we have?
 - a. Is it like a spare tire? Used only for emergencies?
 - b. Is it like a wheelbarrow? Easily upset and must be pushed?
 - c. Is it like a bus? Only ridden when it goes our way?
3. May our faith be like that of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego committed to serving the Lord even in the face of fire!