

DANIEL 3:
Text: Daniel 3:4-6

INTRO: One of the best known stories in the Bible is that of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego & the fiery furnace.

- I. NEBCHADNEZZAR'S FOLLY, vs. 1-7.

- II. SHADRACH, MESHACH, & ABED-NEGO'S RESOLVE.
 - A. The accusation brought against them, vs. 8-12
 - B. The king, tho angry, gives them another chance, vs. 13-15
 - C. Their resolve, vs. 16-18.
 - 1. They could have reasoned, "A man has to live..."
 - 2. They were a long way from "home."
 - 3. "Everybody's doing it."
 - 4. I'll just go thru the motions, not "mean" it...

- III. NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S REVENGE, vs. 19-23.

- IV. GOD'S MIRACULOUS RESPONSE, vs. 24-27.
 - A. They wouldn't bend the will of God; they wouldn't bow to the golden idol; they wouldn't burn in Nebuchadnezzar's furnace.

 - B. They were unhurt, unbound, & walking with God.

- V. NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S CONCLUSION, vs. 28-30.
 - A. He forbade anyone in Babylon to blaspheme the God of Israel.

 - B. He caused Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego to prosper in Babylon.

CONCLUSION: Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego had no absolute promise that they would not die. They knew God could protect them from the fire. They could not be certain that He would. But it was better to burn in Nebuchadnezzar's furnace for a moment than to burn in hell forever. They had walked with God before that golden idol was manufactured. They walked with God in the fiery furnace, & they will walk with God eternally.

THE FOURTH MAN IN THE FIRE
Written by Arthur Smith

Here is a story from the good book we know.
A story 'bout a miracle that happened long ago.
We hope that you'll take courage
When temptation you meet.
There's Somebody watching you
Who's strong when you're weak.

Now the prophet Daniel tells about
Three men who walked with God --
Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego.
Before the wicked king they stood.
And the king commanded them bound and thrown
In the fiery furnace that day
But the fire was so hot that the men were slain
That forced them on their way.

When the three were cast in and the king rose up
To witness this awful fate
He began to tremble at what he saw --
In astonished tones he spake.
"Did we not cast three men bound
Into the midst of the fire
Well, Lo, I see four men unhurt
Unbound and walkin' down there;

"There's Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego;
In the fiery coals they trod
And the form of the Fourth Man that I see
Is like the Son of God;

They wouldn't bend.
They held on to the will of God so we are told.
They wouldn't bow.
They would not bow their knees to the idol made of gold.
They wouldn't burn.
They were protected by the fourth Man in the fire.
They wouldn't bend; they wouldn't bow; they wouldn't
burn.

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, May 4, 2003