

CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH

“Lessons from the Book of Daniel - #6”

Date: May 17, 2009

Text: Daniel 3:19-30

Speaker: Dennis L. Finnan, Sr. Pastor

THE FIERY FURNACE!

INTRODUCTION: The time came to stand for their faith. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, could not deny their great God whom they served for the past decade or more. So into the hands of God they placed their lives, and trusted His ways and will were best. King Nebuchadnezzar, furious with rage, commanded the blast furnace for smelting metals to be raised to unbelievable proportions. Yet our story tells us God chose to intervene and in a manner for all to see. Let's explore this story and see how it can speak to you and me. We see three things ...

I. THE PERSECUTION ENCOUNTERED- (3:19-23)

- A) There is a Fierce Fury**
- B) There is a Fiery Furnace**

II. THE PRESERVATION EXPERIENCED - (3:24-27)

- A) There is a Personal Presence**
- B) There is a Protecting Power**

III. THE PROMOTION ENJOYED - (3: 28-30)

- A) There is a Regal Praise**
- B) There is a Rewarding Prosperity**

CONCLUSION: There is a great lesson on persecution in these verses of study. Many a believer, who experiences such death threatening persecution, can take comfort to know everything that comes into the life of a believer is personally monitored by God's love and concern. Also when God delivers, He delivers completely, and often brings personal rewards and peace that follows. Be willing to suffer persecution, both large and small, for the sake of Jesus; and make sure your testimony is worthy of living for, or dying for, our great King of glory.

BIBLE TEXT FOR MESSAGE

The New International Version

Dan 3:19-30 (NIV) Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual 20 and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. 21 So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. 22 The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, 23 and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, O king." 25 He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." 26 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, 27 and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way." 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.