

DANIEL 3; July 11; The Fourth Man in the Fire

ANALYSIS:

1. With what event in the life of Nebuchadnezzar does this chapter open? _____
2. What threat did the king make regarding worshipping his golden image? _____
3. How did the three Jews answer the king when challenged because they were not worshipping the image? _____
4. What supernatural factors did the LORD reveal when the three Jews were cast into the fiery furnace? _____
5. What was the king's response to God's preservation of the three? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

The three Jews enjoyed a comforting knowledge of God and His sovereignty. They knew God could deliver them from the fiery furnace, but they did not know if He would deliver them that time. They knew that if they died in the flames, they would be delivered out of the hand of the king (v 17). They sound a lot like the apostle Paul, "For we know ... We are confident ... Absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (II Cor 5:1, 8). Glory, Glory, dwelleth in Emmanuel's land!

When death comes and takes a loved one, let us remember that for one who gave evidence of God's saving grace, "to die is gain" (Phil 1:21). So let's talk about being "with Christ, which is far better" (1:23).

HELP:

1. The dedication of King Nebuchadnezzar's image of gold, attended by all his officers from his kingdom (vs 1-2).
2. Whoever does not worship the image will be cast into a burning fiery furnace (v 6).
3. We are not careful [worried or hasty] to answer thee in this matter ... God may or may not deliver us from the fire, but we will not serve your gods nor worship your image (vs 16-18).
4. An angel appeared in the fire with the three, the fire had no power on them, their hair was not singed, costs not changed, no smell of fire on them (vs 25,27).
5. He recognized God had sent his angel and delivered them. He made a decree that anyone who spoke against the God of the three men would be cut into pieces and their house made a dunghill. He promoted the three (28-30).