

Daniel 3:24-25

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

Here is something to think about today. If Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego) were never thrown into the fiery furnace, they would have never seen Jesus.

Hopefully, we all know the story here in the book of Daniel of how King Nebuchadnezzar made this idol and wanted everyone to bow down to it, and if they didn't, then they would be thrown into the fiery furnace. And we also know that Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah refused to bow down, and the result was that they got thrown into the fiery furnace. But if you read the story, it wasn't just any fiery furnace (trial), but once they said they refused to bow down, the fiery trial (so to speak) got hotter, seven times hotter to be exact.

† **Daniel 3:19** *Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.*

Things heated up, so much so, that others got burned by it.

† **Daniel 3:22** *Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.*

Yet Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah still refused to submit, and the result was that they got to spend time with Jesus here on this earth. Sure, they were thrown in the fire, and they survived. But what do you think they talked about more, the fiery furnace, or their time with Jesus? If it were me, I wouldn't be telling people about the fiery furnace (fiery trial), but instead I would spend more time telling others about my time with Jesus and how wonderful it was, because He saw me through that fiery trial.

A lot is going on in the world right now, and some are being tempted to compromise and bow down to the idols of this world, and if you don't then you are considered worse of the worse. Friends may decide to have nothing to do with you and even your family. They will even threaten you more and more, turning up the heat to try and make you give into the ways of the world (bow down to their idols). But if you hang in there, just like Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah did, you will experience an awesome time with Jesus.

I know in my past, there were times that things seemed just too hot, yet I stayed the course, and in the midst of going through a fiery trial, I had some of the best times with Jesus. And if you hang in there, you will too. But you must hang in there.

So, if you are a believer and going through a fiery trail right now, hang in there because Jesus is with you and will get you through this, just like He did with Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. People will see and hear of your fiery trial, and they will hear you speak of our awesome God, and the results is that some will also turn to Jesus as well, because they see how He got you through it.

But if you spend more time talking about the trial you went through, instead of Jesus being with you and seeing you through that trial, no one will want to listen, because everyone goes through trials, but not all walk with Jesus through them. So that's what they want to hear about, Jesus, not our trials.

Plus, if you think about it, the results of Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah not giving in, turned the heart of the one who was rejecting God, to God.

- † **Daniel 3:28** *Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!"*
- † **Psalm 34:2-4** *My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears.*
- † **2 Corinthians 10:17 (NLT2)** *As the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD."*