

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 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 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego 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 trial (furnace), 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 they still refused to submit, and the result was 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 fire or their time with Jesus? If it were me, I wouldn't be telling people how I made it through the fire, but instead I would tell others about my time with Jesus and how wonderful it was.

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 off. Friends may decide to have nothing to do with you and even 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. But if you hang in there like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego 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.

If you are a believer and going through a fiery trial right now, hang in there because Jesus is with you and will get you through this, just like He did with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. People will see and hear of your fiery trial and hear you speak of our awesome God, and the result is that some will also turn to Jesus as well, because they see how He got you through it. Plus not only that, but the results of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego 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!"*