


A LITTLE BACKGROUND

1:1-2 Judah into Babylonian captivity

1:3-7 Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego met the high standards set (Vs. 4) and – after 3 years of training – enter the king's service

2:1-49 Nebuchadnezzar dreams, Daniel interprets and rises in power. Requests that the 3 be made administrators over the province of Babylon



GOD IS...
WITH US IN TRIAL

Daniel 3



2:47 “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings”

And yet...

“Nebuchadnezzar...made an image of gold” 3:1

The unchanging God, a jealous God (Ex. 20), is alone worthy of worship



Vss. 8-12 someone tattled. Jealousy? Very possibly. Rule-followers? Sure. Brown-nosers? It appears that way

Vss. 13-14 Despite his best efforts (the luxuries of the palace, the name changes, etc.) these guys still aren't brain-washed



VS. 15B

“If you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”

(We'll find out soon that the whole “doesn't matter what you believe, as long as your sincere” thing is bogus)



ALSO VERSE 15

Allegedly, at this point their situation was helpless

Isn't that just like the Enemy?

But of course, "with God, all things are possible."

Isn't that just like God?



VSS. 16-18

What an awesome declaration of faith!

“Deliver us or not, we refuse to bow down.”

(Remember the persecuted Church)

In those circumstances, would I be found faithful?



VSS. 19-23

To be clear, there was nothing weak about the fire. It was as hot as possible (3:19) and even killed the soldiers (3:22)

Because the soldiers dropped dead, the three men fell into the furnace.



VS. 24-25

“Then...” Sounds like an immediate response, which fits the character and nature of God

Psalm 124

Isaiah 43:1-2

Matt. 1:23

John 1:14



VS. 27

So utterly impossible? “Then what God...?” (Vs. 15)

Such complete protection. Check it out:

No harm.

No singed hairs.

No damaged clothing.

No whiff of smoke.



Who is the hero in this story?

Who is the hero in your story?