



The fourth Man in the Fire

Daniel 3:1-30



Introduction

- 70 Million Christians martyred over the course of history
 - Half in the 20th Century
 - 21st Century 100,000 to 160,000 Annually
- Top 10 Countries
 1. North Korea
 2. Somalia
 3. Afghanistan
 4. Pakistan
 5. Sudan
 6. Syria
 7. Iraq
 8. Iran
 9. Yemen
 10. Eritrea



I. The Pride of Man Demands Worship (3:1-7)

- A. Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold (1)
 - B. Nebuchadnezzar summoned (2)
 - C. Purpose (3)
 - D. The herald proclaimed a Command (4-5)
 - E. Penalty (6) - Jeremiah 29:22
 - F. Result (7)
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II. The Faithful Remnant Refuses Idolatry (3:8-18)

- A. Accusation Against God's People (3:8-12)
 - B. Confrontation Before the King (3:13-15)
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II. The Faithful Remnant Refuses Idolatry (3:8-18)

“The faithfulness of Gods servants to him has often been the wonder of their enemies and persecutors, who think it strange that they run not with them, to the same excess of riot. He was willing to admit them to a new trial if they did on purpose not do it before, yet, it may be, upon second thoughts, before him, that they will change their minds it is therefore repeated to them upon the terms which they now stand.” –

Matthew Henry



II. The Faithful Remnant Refuses Idolatry (3:8-18)

A. Accusation Against God's People (3:8-12)

B. Confrontation Before the King (3:13-15)

“What god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?”

C. Faithful Response (3:16-18)

1. No compromise
2. Confidence
3. Trust
4. Submission
5. Conviction



III. The Wrath of Man Meets the Sovereignty of God (3:19-23)

- A. Nebuchadnezzar is filled with wrath (19a)
 - B. Orders: (19B-20)
 - heat furnace seven times hotter
 - bind the three men
 - cast them into the fire
 - C. Result (21-23):
 - Soldiers are killed
 - Men of God survive
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IV. The Presence of God in the Fire (3:24-27)

A. Nebuchadnezzar astonished (24)

- 1) Observation:
 - three were cast in
 - 2) But now:
 - four are walking
 - 3) Characteristics:
 - loosed
 - walking
 - unharmed
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IV. The Presence of God in the Fire (3:24-27)

- A. Nebuchadnezzar astonished (24)
- B. The fourth has the appearance like a son of the gods (25)
 - This is Christophany: “appearance of a son”
 - Christ protects his people
 - Christ Comforts his people
 - His people enjoy fellowship with Him
 - His people experience Joy with Him



IV. The Presence of God in the Fire (3:24-27)

- A. Nebuchadnezzar astonished (24)
- B. The fourth has the appearance like a son of the gods (25)
- C. Nebuchadnezzar calls them out (26-27)
 - 1) Declares them as servants of the most high God (26)
 - 2) All inspect to confirm (27)
 - no bodily harm
 - hair not singed
 - garments unharmed
 - no smell of fire



V. The Glory of God Displayed Before the Nations (3:28-30)

- A. Nebuchadnezzar blesses God
 - B. Decree: No one can say anything against God
 - C. Reason: None can save like El Elyon
 - D. Result: Prosperity in Babylon and protection
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APPLICATION

1. Persecution will come our way if we are following Christ
 - a) Rejoice
 - b) Be Glad
 - c) Stand firm
2. We are to stand resolved in our profession of faith. Be like the men of this story
 - a) Do not compromise
 - b) Have Confidence
 - c) Trust in God
 - d) Submit to the commandments of God
 - e) Have Conviction in your life from Gods word and stand by it
 - f) Remain faithful
3. Fear God more than man
4. Be astonished by our God as you read scripture
5. Worship and Praise the God of scripture
6. Jesus is El-Elyon: the Most High God
7. Jesus is the one who will:
 - a) Deliver you
 - b) Comfort you
 - c) Protect you
 - d) Rejoice with you
 - e) Be in the midst of the fire with you in your trials
 - f) Will never leave you nor forsake you
 - g) Enjoy fellowship with you