



Ministry of the Word

Sunday 19th March 2017

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Scripture: Daniel 3

Subject: Chapter 3, Part 13 - Faith in the Fiery Furnace

We have come from the planes of Dura where the idol pageantry had taken place. All of the “who’s who” have gathered and been disbanded on good terms with the king. Except for three young Hebrews who are now the subject of a serious court matter! Well that’s how the Chaldeans would like us to view it as. The whole thing was instigated on the perceived knowledge of the king’s vanity to entrap particularly these Jews who made a stand for their God and especially their beliefs.

So let just step for a few moments to go over what we know of these three men. Obviously they were friends of Daniel and were not just by his side but also they were as committed as he. For they also abstained from the king’s table which we read about in chapter 1 and they prayed and fasted with Daniel in chapter 2.

It’s interesting to note the meaning of their names and their name changes.

Firstly we have Shadrach, the Babylonian name meaning – ‘Illuminated by the Sun God’ and his Hebrew name, Hananiah, which was his original name meant – ‘Beloved of the Lord’.

Secondly, there was Meshach, the Babylonian name meaning – “Who is like unto the Moon God” and his Hebrew name, Mishael, his original name meant – ‘Who is God?’

Finally, there was Abednego, the Babylonian name meaning – “Servant of Nego (The Shining Fire’) and his Hebrew name, Azariah, his original name meant – ‘The Lord is my help’.

It’s profoundly interesting how the Babylonian name changes all wanted them to focus on other gods, the Babylonian gods and yet how could they forget their real names which reminded them of who their God is, one who loves, one who there is none like, and one who is their ever present help.

Now keep this in mind as we proceed as their Hebrew names really identify with the situation they found themselves and that they were not just names but part of their internal principle which spoke of God’s attributes which they put their lives on the line for.

Verse 9 -

“They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever!”

Have you come to any conclusions yourself from the closing remarks made by the Chaldeans, when they made their case as it were for the ‘prosecution’? Seeking to show the three young men’s total disregard in respect to the king, they knew that their plan would work and had worked. Vanity and power blinded the king’s mind and heart, the only thing he could see, was his own importance! There are over 198 particular references to vanity in the Bible. From Exodus 5:9 where it first occurs, to 2 Peter 2:18 where it concludes and while there are different shades of the meaning for “vanity”, not one is positive. Haven’t you noticed that sin never travels on its own? There is always an unholy trinity, so to speak, to be found. There’s a word study that would make you think, but maybe another time perhaps. Vanity by the way is not the exclusive practice of the unsaved it is found sadly in many of the people of God.

By the way do you agree with the Chaldeans first supposition, remember last week, the charge that these three lads did not have respect for the king? If you did think that they didn’t have respect for the king, then you would be wrong. You see they had faithfully fulfilled what Jesus would preach and teach in Matthew 22:21.

“They said to Him, “Caesar’s. And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Drop down to verse 12 of Daniel 3.

“There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.”

They, that is the Chaldeans, accused them of three things.

One - in the middle of the verse, **“O king, these men have not regarded thee.”** They accused them for not giving the king regard and attention as expected. They were accusing them for not responding as the king wished nor his due. That was not true. They had faithfully fulfilled what our Lord said, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s.” They had unquestionably fulfilled their responsibility to the king insofar as it **didn’t violate their responsibility to God**. They were good citizens. They had responded to the king. Go back to chapter 1 and you find out that they had given the king his due.

The second accusation was true. Verse 12. **“They serve not thy gods”** that was true and **the third accusations** which was also true - **“and they don’t worship the image which you set up”**. Now what’s amazing, these three young men knew the price of disobedience and you have to ask yourself how could anybody put a principle so high that they would literally stand there while the entire mass of people went down, and that they would stand there resolute, ready to walk into a burning fiery furnace? Now that’s character, people. That’s functioning on internal principle, not external pressure.

Now, just think about the pressure. Nebuchadnezzar was seen as their friend, remember Chapter 2 when he appointed positions of responsibility after the dream was revealed and interpreted. Nebuchadnezzar was their benefactor. Their destiny was in his hands. Resisting Nebuchadnezzar would have been utterly useless. They had no other resources. Future advancement in their careers in Babylon were absolutely dependent upon their allegiance. They could have said to themselves, “An idol is nothing, anyway, sure why should we worry about it? We’ll just kneel down with everybody else, only we’ll pray to the true God.” Mmm! I have heard that one before so many times.

They could have said, “Everybody’s doing it. If we’re going to reach people, then we’ve got to be part of them or at least be seen that way.” They could have said, “Well, you know, the



fire tends to be fatal, and if we're dead we're not going to be useful to God, and we're in such a strategic place that if we get burned up it's just going to mess up the whole plan." Mmm! Another saying I have heard before from believers.

They also could have thought, "Well, if we don't bow down, we're going to play into the hands of these jealous Chaldeans." And they may have thought for a moment that death wasn't in their contract. Don't we all?

But there is one more thing that I feel is important. They could have used the occasion to get back at God. After all, it was Him who had them taken captive and trafficked to Babylon as slaves. How many 'Christians' do this when they find themselves in a hard place, instead of allowing God to hold onto them, they tend to let go and sink into anger, regrets and unbelief even walk away from God. We foolishly charge God as if He is our servant and has no business in letting anything bad or uncomfortable happen to us! Are they not the places we can learn so much, and are they not the places that make the good times so good! Hebrews 12:1-10.

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness."

There were lots of things that could have come to bear upon them as pressures, but in spite of all of this they were resolute and absolutely uncompromising! It's amazing the situation they were in to take such a firm stand. Stephen Girard, a millionaire in Philadelphia, told his clerks one Saturday that they had to come the next day and unload a shipment which had just arrived. Well, the next day was Sunday. One young man stepped up to his desk and said nervously,

"Mr. Girard, I can't work on Sunday."

"Well, sir," replied the employer, "if you can't do as I wish, we can separate."

"I know that, sir," said the young man. "And I know, too, that I have a widowed mother to care for, but I cannot work on Sunday, I am a believer in Christ."

"Very well," said Mr. Girard, "go to the cashier's desk and he'll settle with you."

For three long weeks the young man tramped the streets looking for work, and one day a bank president asked Girard to name a suitable person for cashier of a new bank about to be started. After reflecting a moment, Girard named the young man he had just fired.

"But I thought you said you fired him," said the bank president.

"I did," retorted Gerard, "because he wouldn't work on Sunday. And I tell you, the man that will lose his job on account of principle is the man with whom you can trust your money."

You know, you have to ask yourself the question, if you were in Nebuchadnezzar's situation, why bother about the three lads, right? You've got everybody else down. What's the big deal? But have you ever noticed egomania can't stand one person that doesn't conform? One person is all it takes to make them literally livid, let alone three. So Nebuchadnezzar would never be satisfied with everybody minus three. Megalomaniacs are never satisfied with anything less than everybody, period. The greatest of these is of course Satan.

Another side step to take just here, the Cuneiform tablets which are in the British Museum record a revolt that happen in Babylon in 596BC. This may have also set the stage for the wide scale reaffirmation and swearing allegiance in support of Nebuchadnezzar. So maybe it just wasn't vanity but it had to do with his supreme authority. Therefore, it would make sense that these would had to have been used to make an example in front of everyone looking on.

Also remember, Nebuchadnezzar was a general before a King so people obeying his orders without question is what he would have expected without question. We also have to think about the Chaldeans in play here. While Chaldeans can be used as a word to describe a people from a particular geographical area, here it is a job description. The Chaldeans were keepers of occult knowledge and religion. Therefore, well some of them may have been double minded about these lads, after all they did help save their lives, they of course had allegiance to their gods (who were different forms of Satan and demons), their pride, their way of life and they were out to get them for showing them up in front of their king.

The Coercion

From the conspiracy, we go to the fourth feature in this narrative, the coercion and by coercion here, we find Nebuchadnezzar confronting the three lads, trying to coerce them into a response that was more fitting. However, we find them to be unshakeable! Notice, in verses 13-15, follow along.

“Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury,” now that shows you what kind of a man he really was, those words are strong words. He was a raving maniac because these three Hebrews wouldn’t bow down to him. He was in an absolute fury and he commanded that the men in question be brought to him. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were brought before the king. *“And Nebuchadnezzar spoke and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you don’t serve my gods, or worship the golden image which I have set up?”*

Notice he dropped the first accusation that they made in verse 12 that they don’t regard the king, because he knew that wasn’t true. Then he goes through this whole routine again. *“Now, if you be ready that at that time you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, sackbut, psaltery,”* he must have memorized this speech *“and all kinds of music, fall down and worship the image which I have made; but if you worship not, you shall be cast in the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.”*



And then he adds this stupid statement. *“And who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?”* He really got carried away. *“Who is that God that will deliver you out of my hands?”* He also had a short memory or maybe he rage was blinding him to the facts. Had he forgotten that they knew the same God that was able to reveal dreams and visions? *“Is it true”* he says in verse 14 *“that you won’t do this?”* In his favour, he at least gave them a chance to speak for themselves before he orders them to be thrown into the fiery furnace.

His evil heart made him furious, he was furious at this particular point, and he goes to the point of actually putting himself against God, he pitted his power against the power of God. *“Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?”*

O the folly and the stupidity of that kind of pride! When you place yourself against the eternal God, you have met your match, end games, its over, and he does meet more than his match in this chapter and in the succeeding ones, as we will see. Had he forgotten that Daniel’s God was greater than all the gods of Babylon, including his own gods who couldn’t answer his dreams and help him in any way, shape or form? It seems as though the idolatrous fool in the midst of his egomania had forgotten that. Regardless, the king’s personal coercion did not work on them.

The Courage

Right, then, from the ceremony, to the command, to the conspiracy, to the coercion, and now the courage, verse 16. And this is the climax, it’s just fabulous. “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king *“O Nebuchadnezzar”* they don’t give him all that “long-live-the-king” stuff. *“O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.”* I love that. Well, what does that mean? What are they saying?

Well, basically, they are telling that they are not going to hold any punches. They are going to tell him the way it is. God after all is greater than any king and they knew that regardless of what they would say, it would never satisfy the King or any of his court. They were about to lose their lives, so what else were they going to lose?

Then came the sublime statement. In fact, maybe the most inspiring statement any mortal ever makes in the whole of the Bible, maybe the greatest affirmation of true faith anywhere in holy Scripture. Verses 17 and 18 –



“If it be so, our God whom we serve” and that’s pretty direct *“is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king”* one way or another! *“But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”* End of speech, period. If last words mean anything and they do, these were outstanding, don’t you agree.

No rationalization, no dialogue, no, “Well, what would you like us to do? Could we bend down half way?” None of that. “We don’t have any defence suitable for you,” they say. “We don’t have any answer you want. We have absolutely nothing to say, except our God whom we serve is greater than you. He will deliver us out of your burning, fiery furnace, and even if He doesn’t, we still **are not** going to bow down.”

O what a sublime statement. What faith these young men had! What courage! We all agree with that, so are we willing to follow Jesus all the way not just to the edge of death but all the way if necessary? They were standing on the edge of the fiery furnace. Their testimony was unflinching and unwavering and their faith held true in the worst moment.

I submit to you that this is because they were absolutely committed to their internal principle. They had been taught the Word of God, they whole heartily believed it, they had relationship with God. They knew God and who He is and they knew that they were to respond in a certain manner based upon the truth of God. They would not compromise no matter what the external pressures were. What virtue! It wasn’t dependent on whether or not they got their miracle. They would accept God’s will even if it meant death rather than be idolatrous.

If there’s anything we can give this world it’s this kind of a spirit. It’s an uncompromising, unflinching integrity that says, “I will stand true to my God even if it costs me my life.” Some may bow, it’s hard not to, to the 20th century idols to gain whatever is want to be gained. They knew the blindness of that heathen king.

Like Job in Job 13:15, they said, *“Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.”* They knew that what happened to their bodies was not the issue, but that their soul had to be riveted on the truth of God. This is for us, people, an uncompromising life that will not bow to any idol no matter what the cost; the idol of popularity, the idol of comfort, the idol of fame, the idol of



respectability in the world, none of those idols should make us bow. There is no compromise for one who stands like this.

God is just as good when He doesn't heal as He is when He does. God is just as loving when He doesn't provide all that we think we need as when He does. God is just as gracious when He says "no" as He is when He says "yes." God is God, and God is to be uncompromisingly worshiped, and what He does is His business. You might sum it up by saying, in God's case, death is as good as life. Right?

Paul said it, *"For to me to live is Christ and to die is"* what? *"gain."* Death never put any fear in his heart. Death never forced him to compromise.

1 Corinthians 15:55

"O Death where is your sting, O Grave where is your victory"

He put his head one day on a block, and an axe head flashed in the sun, and severed it from his body, and he never flinched and compromised.

Listen, the Lord calls us to that.

In Exodus 32:26, the question was asked, *"Who is on the Lord's side?"*

In Matthew 10:32, *"Whoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father whose in heaven."*

In Mark 8:38, *"Whoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous generation; of him shall the Son of man be ashamed."*

In other words, there is a call for an uncompromising commitment to confess the reality of God and stand true. The world comes to us over and over again to call us to its idols. We want to be popular. We want to be famous. We want to be liked. We want to make money. We want to get a promotion. We want to get good grades. We want to win somebody over. So, we compromise and render ourselves useless and our testimony negative.

Is there anything that you are holding onto in your life that is compromising your testimony as a believer? Something you are concealing, hiding? Perhaps you are trying to justify it, a



practice, a relationship, a belief, a stance all of which deep in your heart you know is not of God? Then it's time to let go or be consumed by it and lose out big time.

So with these great men of God and others, we stand before the presence of the pressure of the world not to bow to its idols, but to remain unflinching and unwavering. I can't remember who it was exactly but someone once wrote,

***“The dearest idol I have known,
what e'er that idol be,
help me to tear it from its throne
and worship only Thee.”***

No wonder in 1 John 5:21 John closes his marvellous epistle with the words ***“Keep yourselves from idols.”***

The Consequences

And now the consequences, verse 19. Well, after that little deal, ***“Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury.”*** In verse 13 it says he had ***“rage and fury.”*** He was full of it now. ***“And the form of his visage was changed.”*** You know what that means? That means he screwed up his face. He was so mad that he began to wrinkle up his face and made faces at them. This was a grown man. He was so thwarted by how he was defied against and his ego was badly dented, he was just literally enraged, and his appearance even changed. ***“And he spoke”*** and then he did a stupid thing ***“He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. And he commanded certain mighty men of valour who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.”***

Furnaces were not uncommon in those days, in fact they were used for many things just as making bricks and other things such as refining metals such as gold hence why they would have been able to turn up the heat as the stages of refining gold requires the heat to increase as you make the gold purer. But it was not uncommon also, for the furnace to be used for executions.



Have you noticed as you read the text in verse 21, they were dressed appropriately for the occasion, and I think this is a hint here from the Holy Spirit that they had really come to do what was right as those who responded to the king. They were not being rebellious. They were properly attired for such a great event. They just wouldn't follow through in disobedience to their God.

Now, they knew God was not going to save them from the fire which became abundantly clear as they were on their way in. Plan B, if you can't get saved from the fire, you hope to get saved in the fire and that's what happened. So, they knew they were not going to be able to escape the experience, but they were trusting God to suffer through the experience to His glory. Maybe they were remembering the comforting words of Isaiah 43:2,

“When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

That would have been a comfort to them, wouldn't it? Well, the soldiers didn't have it so well. Verse 22. *“Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent”* he was completely out of control *“and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.”* The soldiers that threw them in all burned to death and they were some of Nebuchadnezzar's best. Here they were on the outside burned to death and the others were on the inside having a great time.

The Companion

We move from the consequences to the companion in verse 24.

“Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded, and rose up in a hurry, and spoke, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men” not bound, but *“loose, walking around in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”*

Now if you think Nebuchadnezzar was shaking when this started, he was really shaking at this point. He was seated at a comfortable distance able to see what was going on. He looked in there and many things astound him. First he saw four, not three. Then he saw that they are

not bound, but were loose. They were not lying down but they were walking around. They were not burning up or roasting, they were completely unhurt. The fourth one looked like a son of the gods and they weren't looking for the exit, they were just patiently waiting and enjoying each other's company.

What about the phrase *"a son of the gods"* who is that? Nebuchadnezzar was a pagan. He wouldn't have known the Son of God if he had seen Him. He wouldn't have understood a pre-incarnate Christophany or anything about the appearance of Christ as we find in Genesis 18. I believe that what Nebuchadnezzar had in his mind with that statement is simply an angelic being because over in verse 28 of this same chapter, he used the word *"angel"*. It seems to me that Nebuchadnezzar recognized a supernatural-spiritual-being that he would equate with an angel.

Now some believe it was Christ, and others believe it was an angel, and frankly, there's no way to be certain about it at all. We know Christ did appear at certain times in the Old Testament, but whether it was Christ in a special appearance prior to His incarnation in earth, or whether it was an angel is really not the issue. The point is, I believe, that God sent help into that fiery furnace. Remember back to the meaning of their original Hebrew names – "Beloved of the Lord", "Who is God", "The Lord is my help", surely they knew this to be true now, more than ever.

I think God sends to those who are His, angels to care for us in the midst of dire circumstances. Psalm 34:7

"The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them."

Years before, Elijah had been similarly honoured by having God's angels sent personally to serve him food at a time he was terribly discouraged. You can read it in 1 Kings 19. How wonderful it is to know that we go through no experience where God is not there in divine companionship, and the hotter the fire the sweeter the fellowship.

The Commendation

Lastly, believe it or not, the commendation. This is very simple to see, verse 26.

“Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spoke and said, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, you servants of the Most High God”. How did he know that? Well, it was obvious he had met his match. “Come forth, come here”. I love this. “Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came forth from the midst of the fire.” I’m sure Nebuchadnezzar and all his company were rubbing their eyes all this time.

And here we go again. *“And the princes, the governors, the captains, the king’s counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose body the fire had no power, nor was a hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them”.*

Now, they did an investigation, and there was not a hair singed, and their garments weren’t even changed in terms of being burned at all, and there’s not even the smell of fire on them.

“Then Nebuchadnezzar spoke, and said” now watch this *“Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who has sent His angel, and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and hath changed the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.”* He said, “I just have to bless the God of these people who wouldn’t compromise and wouldn’t worship any other god.”

And I love this statement, verse 28, *“They yielded their”* what? *“their bodies”*. What verse does that sound like?

Romans 12:1, *“Present your bodies a”* what? *“a living sacrifice. And be not conformed to this world.”*

That’s exactly what they did. You want an illustration of Romans 12:1-2, here it is! They yielded their bodies. And he said, “Blessed be the God who can get that kind of allegiance out of His people.”

Listen, we can set the world on its ear. We can turn the pagan world around in a tizzy, literally, by living an uncompromising life so that even in their unbelief, they will have to say that ours is the Most High God. Even in their unbelief they will have to say, “Blessed be the God of those people. Any God who can draw that kind of allegiance must be some God.”

And then the commendation, verse 29.



“Therefore I make a decree, that every people, nation, and language, who speak anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a refuse heap” and that was the ultimate desecration, to take a person’s house and make it a dung pile, a sewage place, *“because there is no other god that can deliver after this sort. And then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon”*.

Did you know that in the Babylonian Clay Prism that’s based in Istanbul Museum, there is a tablet that lists people from this period, some of who have details of their position? Now we can’t be too sure but scholars believe that they have found these three lads listed amongst the names -

- Ha-nu-nu (an alternative form of Hanniah) listed as – Chief of the Royal Merchants
- Mishael-emarduk – (less marduk which is a name of a god) – Didn’t have his position listed
- Ardinabu (an alternative form of Abednego) listed as Sectary to the Crown Prince.

Is that not amazing!!

If you think the Chaldeans were unhappy at the beginning of chapter 3, can you imagine what they were like by the end of this situation and by the end of the chapter! Nebuchadnezzar said, anybody who spoke a word against their God is going to be cut in pieces, and their houses will be made a refuse heap. Nebuchadnezzar wasn’t naive. He was determined that he was going to be nice to this God because if ever he wanted anything, he wanted this God on his side.

You and I will probably never face a fiery furnace, right? Probably never will. But you’re going to face trial by fire, and so am I. They’re going to come from several sources. First of all, Satan afflicts us. He afflicted Jesus and tempted Him.

“He goes around” says Peter in *“as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour”*.

He is the accuser of the brethren. He wants to plant evil thoughts and manipulate our past experience in order to destroy our lives as well as our Christian activity. Paul himself said he received a messenger from Satan sent to buffet him. Satan is going to afflict us through the avenue of the flesh always. Just like the three friends experience satanic spiritual warfare



which lead them into a conflict of interest, we surely do face the same. Remember in Ephesian 6 it states clearly that we fight not just against flesh and blood, but we also fight against principalities and powers. So it's not just one demon at a time, it can come at many different stages and from different directions. To be forewarned is to be forearmed and knowing the enemy's tactics as well as the armour that is available to you help in preparation as well as during battle. So remember, if you are not in battle you should be in preparation.

Secondly, the world is going to torment us. The world is going to try to lure us and to persecute us. It is going to try to force us to compromise.

Thirdly, believe it or not, God will even bring trials into our life, testing our faith, right? In Hebrews chapter 12, it talks about how God afflicts us with chastening. Also remember saints like Job, who is a great illustration of this.

So, we're going to have the trials: Some from Satan, some from the world, and some that God allows; but in all of this, the end result will be that we may be refined and that we may stand courageous and uncompromising. A hymn writer once wrote,

**“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace all sufficient shall be thy supply:
The flame shall not hurt thee;
I only design thy dross to consume
and thy gold to refine.”**

Amen.