



Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 4

Law/Gospel

In sin, I choose what makes the world, my flesh, and the devil happy and try to avoid the suffering or trouble that sometimes comes my way because of my faith in God. **He who once walked unharmed with the three faithful men in the fiery furnace also suffered the fiery wrath of God by dying on the cross to pay for my sins. Through Word and Sacrament, He sustains me through all the troubles I have in this life and assures me of life with Him in heaven.**

Bible Words

Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Fun Facts

The Babylonians changed Hebrew names to ones connected to Babylonian gods. Daniel was called Belteshazzar; Hananiah became Shadrach; Mishael became Meshach; and Azariah became Abednego (Daniel 1:7).

The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3

When they defeated the Assyrians in 626 BC, the Babylonians became the most powerful nation in the ancient world. Their empire covered the entire Fertile Crescent, from Egypt's upper Nile to the Persian Gulf. Ruins of their ancient city of Babylon lie within present-day Iraq, about fifty miles south of Baghdad.

The Southern Kingdom of Judah sat at key crossroads of major trade routes from Babylon to Lebanon, Egypt, and Greece. Because of their important location, the Babylonians besieged Jerusalem and exiled educated and wealthy Judeans in several deportations starting in 605 BC. They destroyed Jerusalem in 587 BC.

The captors imposed their language, lifestyle, and religion on the Judeans. Exiles Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego became influential government officials, but they defied King Nebuchadnezzar's order to bow down to a golden image. They knew, but did not fear, the king's decree to throw those who would not bow down into a fiery furnace.

When Nebuchadnezzar questioned the three men about their offense, they said, "Our God we serve is able to deliver us from the fiery furnace, but if He does not we still won't serve your gods or worship the golden image." Furious, the king ordered the men tied up and tossed into the furnace. He looked in and saw four men walking unhurt in the fire. The appearance of the fourth he described as like "a son of the gods" (v. 25).

The king called the three men out of the fire. The fire did not affect them. Their hair was not singed. Their clothes were not burned. They didn't even smell like smoke!

The preincarnate Son of God Himself saved the three men from the fire. Our Savior is with us when we suffer for His name too. Since we are baptized into His death and resurrection, it is no longer we who live but Christ who lives in us, suffers in us, and remains faithful in us.

Prayer

Dear Lord, deliver us from evil and protect us by Your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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