

DANIEL CHAPTER 3

Chapter 3

During this time, Jerusalem had been destroyed. The Jews as a nation, were scattered throughout the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar; their king, Jehoiachin, languished in one of the prisons of Babylon. Twenty-three years later (since Nebuchadnezzar's dream), Daniel was made counselor of Babylon.

3:1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height [was] threescore cubits, [and] the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

3:2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

3:3 Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges (*"diviners"*), the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

3:4 Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,

3:5 [That] at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

3:6 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. (*Ezra 20:1-5; Deut 4:14-19*)

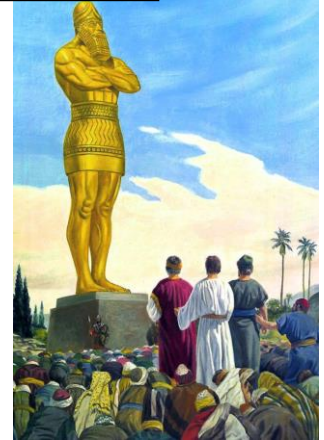
3:7 Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down [and] worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

3:8 Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

3:9 They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

3:10 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

The Fiery Ordeal



The image stood on the plain of Dura, rising at least 100 feet above the surrounding country, and visible for miles in every direction.

Matt 6:24 cannot serve two masters

Luke 14:11 exalteth self, shall be abased

Rom 13:1 every should subject to higher powers

John 4:24 must worship him in spirit

Of spiritual worship, paganism is entirely ignorant. It was wholly in accordance with the religion and government of Babylon for the king to erect an image such as he did. It was in harmony with the custom—educational, religious and civil.

**But Christ is faithful as a son over
God's house. And we are his house,
if we hold on to our courage and
the hope of which we boast.**

Hebrews 3:6b



DANIEL CHAPTER 3

3:11 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, [that] he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

3:12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

3:13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in [his] rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

3:14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, [Is it] true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

3:15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; [well]: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who [is] that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we [are] not careful to answer thee in this matter. [\[Luke 21:14, 15\]](#)

3:17 If it be [so], our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver [us] out of thine hand, O king. [\[Prov 23:11; Rom 14:4; Ps 22:11; Matt 14:34-35\]](#)

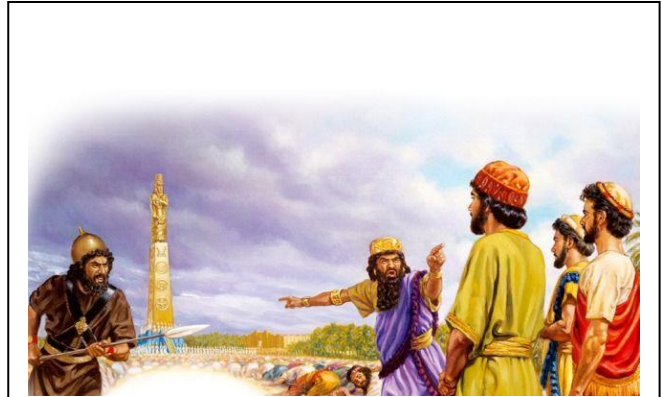
3:18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

3:19 Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: [therefore] he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one **seven times [2520]** more than it was wont to be heated.

3:20 And he commanded the most mighty men that [were] in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, [and] to cast [them] into the burning fiery furnace.

3:21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their [other] garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. [\[Ps76:10\]](#)

3:22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.



VERSE 19

These **trials of life** are God's workmen to remove the impurities, infirmities, and roughness from our characters, and fit us for the society of pure, heavenly angels in glory. But as we pass through these trials, as the fires of affliction kindle upon us, **we must not keep the eye on the fire which is seen, but let the eye of faith fasten upon the things unseen, the eternal inheritance, the immortal life, the eternal weight of glory;** and while we do this the fire will not consume us, but only remove the dross, and we shall come forth **seven times purified**, bearing the impress of the Divine. {1T 706}

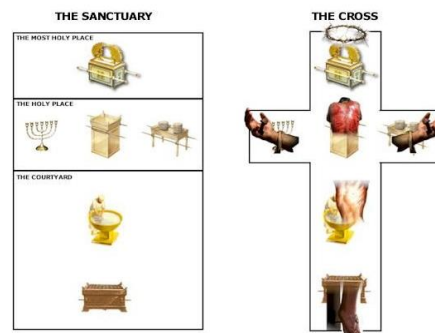
2520 (seven times) is a Judgment Number found all throughout Scripture.



AND STILL THEY DO NOT SEE

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the WAY, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
(John 14:6)

"Thy WAY, O God, is in the sanctuary."
(Psalm 77:13)



"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, **that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:** by whose stripes ye were healed."
(1 Peter 2:24)

DANIEL CHAPTER 3

3:23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

3:24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, [and] spake, 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.

3:25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. [Prov 14:16; 34:7]

3:26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, [and] spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come [hither]. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire. [2 Cor 3:2-3; 5:20]

3:27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them. [Luke 21:12, 13; Ps 145:11-14]

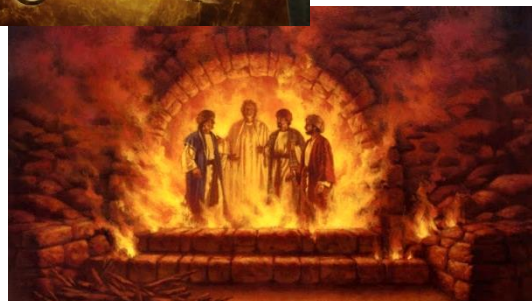
3:28 [Then] Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed [be] the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

3:29 Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort. [1 Pet 2:12]

3:30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.

DECREE

What the Jews as a nation had failed to do in proclaiming the truth to the nations of the world, God accomplished under the most trying circumstances, with only three.



Issuing of decree about 26 years after Daniel carried to Babylon and probable was also the time the prophet Jeremiah told Zedekiah, king of Judah, if he would deliver himself into the hands of the king of Babylon's princes, Jerusalem would not be destroyed. Jer 37:8-10; 38:3 14-17, 20, 23; 39:5-20

FAITH- Zedekiah lacked faith Mark 11:22-24

We need to be still Ps 46:10

Maketh enemies to be at peace. Prov 16:7

Can do nothing against the truth.... 2Cor 13:8; Ps 19:3, 4; Rom 10:18

A direct compliance with Bible
Requirements, and a faith in
God, will bring strength to both
The will and the body

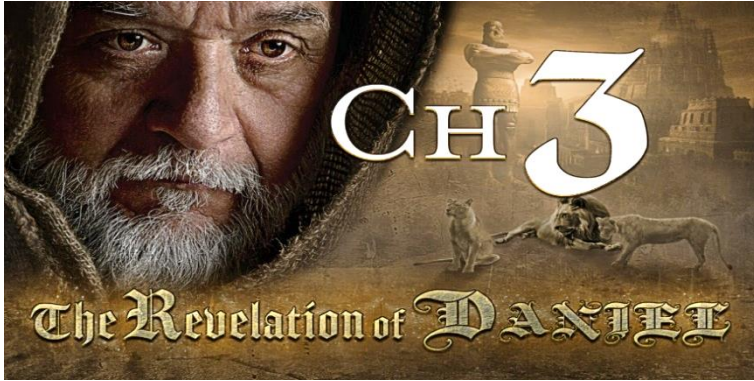
Love - Joy - Peace - Temperance

Trust in the Lord in all thy ways
And lean not in thine own understanding
The eyes of the Lord are upon the right-
eous, And His ears are open into their cry.
Ps 34:15

*The words of the LORD [are] pure words: [as] silver tried in a furnace of earth,
purified seven times. Ps 12:6*

The people whom God has made the depositaries of His law are not to permit their light to be hidden. The truth must be proclaimed in the dark places of the earth. Obstacles must be met and surmounted. A great work is to be done, and this work has been entrusted to those who know the truth. They should make mighty intercession with God for help now. The love of Christ must be diffused in their own hearts. The Spirit of Christ must be poured out upon them, and they must be making ready to stand in the judgment. While they are consecrating themselves to God, a convincing power will attend their efforts to present the truth to others, and its light will find access to many hearts. We must sleep no longer on Satan's enchanted ground, but call into requisition all our resources and avail ourselves of every facility with which Providence has furnished us. The last warning is to be proclaimed "before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings;" and the promise is given, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." {5T 454.1}

DANIEL CHAPTER 3



1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height [was] threescore cubits, [and] the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

This is the image of the king's dream in chapter two. The foolish king, wishing to have his kingdom endure forever, made a statue entirely of gold.

2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

3 Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4 Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,

5 [That] at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

6 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

7 Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down [and] worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

The chief men of the kingdom were called together for a great occasion. The image was to be worshiped at the sound of the music, and whoever failed to bow down to it would be thrown into a fiery furnace.

8 Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

9 They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

10 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image:



DANIEL CHAPTER 3

11 And whoso falleth not down and worshipping, [that] he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

It was the Magi, the kings wise men, who failed to interpret the kings dream that accused the Jews. They wanted to disgrace or destroy them. Daniel must have been away at this time, on the kings business in some other part of the empire. His companions recognized civil authority is to be respected and obeyed, as long as it does not conflict with the commands of God, and thus they were obliged to attend this great event. However, the requirement for them to worship the image they could not do, as they must obey God rather than man.



13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in [his] rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, [Is it] true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; [well]: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who [is] that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we [are] not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be [so], our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver [us] out of thine hand, O king.

18 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.

They were not "...careful to answer". They didn't need more time to carefully consider the matter. They already knew the answer. Their failure to obey to worship the image was polite, but firm. They declared, Our God can deliver if He so desires; but if not, we shall not complain. We know His will and we shall render Him unconditional obedience.

19 Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: [therefore] he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20 And he commanded the most mighty men that [were] in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, [and] to cast [them] into the burning fiery furnace.

21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their [other] garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

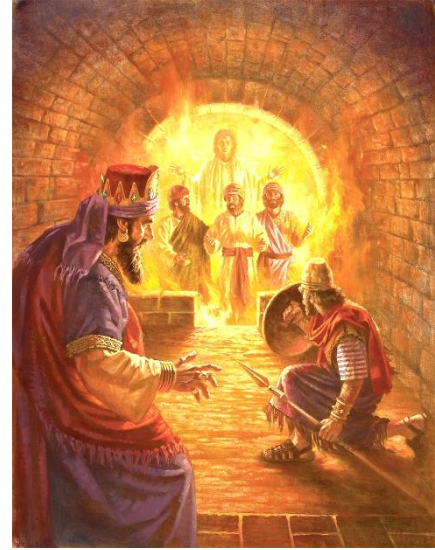
DANIEL CHAPTER 3

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, [and] spake, 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.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

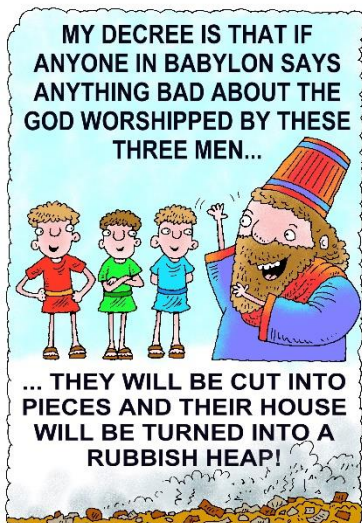
Nebuchadnezzar flies into a passion of rage and orders the furnace heated to its utmost capacity and the men thrown in. Then he declares "...the fourth is like the Son of God..." a more literal rendering is "like a son of the gods". This was Nebuchadnezzar's accustomed way of speaking of the gods he worshiped, but it does not at all prevent its referring to Christ.



26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, [and] spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come [hither]. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

28 [Then] Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed [be] the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.



29 Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.

When called, these three men were closely inspected and tangible proof of their miraculous preservation was made apparent. The knowledge of this deliverance would be spread abroad throughout the empire, as the people returned to their respective homes! Nebuchadnezzar publicly exalted the God of heaven above all other gods.

DANIEL CHAPTER 3

Forced Worship; Death Decree

Daniel 3:1

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 44

Heaven was watching with intense interest, for this was the occasion when the highest worldly authority was to meet the government of God.

Daniel 3:2

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 44

As a king, he had a perfect right to call his subjects together. As subjects, it was the duty of those who were called, to obey.

Daniel 3:4-6

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 45

It was wholly in accordance with the religion, the education, and the government of Babylon, for the king to erect an image such as he did. It was wholly in harmony with the custom — educational, religious, and civil—for the people in general to respect a command to worship such an image. While it was in harmony with worldly government, it was not, however, according to the principles of the heavenly government. Hence it is that again, in the person of the Babylonian king, **Satan is challenging the government of God.**

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 46

The Babylonian king, however, threatened utter destruction to all who refused to worship his golden image. The motive power in the heavenly government is love; human power, when exercised, becomes tyranny. All tyranny is a repetition of the Babylonian principles. We sometimes call it papal; it is likewise Babylonian. When the civil power enforces worship of any sort, be that worship true or false in itself, to obey is idolatry.

The command must be backed by some form of punishment,—a fiery furnace,—and the conscience of man is no longer free. From a civil standpoint, such legislation is tyranny; looked at from a religious point of view, it is persecution.

Daniel 3:12

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 80

These Chaldeans who accused the Jews were probably the sect of philosophers who went by that name, and who were still smarting under the chagrin of their ignominious failure in respect to their interpretation of the king's dream of chapter 2. They were eager to seize upon any pretext to accuse the Jews before the king and either disgrace or destroy them.

Daniel 3:13

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 81, 82

Nebuchadnezzar was not entirely free from the faults and follies into which an absolute monarch so easily runs. Intoxicated with unlimited power, he could not brook disobedience or contradiction. Let his expressed authority be resisted, on however good grounds, and he exhibits the weakness common to our fallen humanity under like circumstances, and flies into a passion. Ruler of the world, he was not equal to that still harder task of ruling his own spirit. **And even the form of his visage was changed.** Instead of the calm, dignified, self-possessed ruler that he should have appeared, **betrayed himself in look and act as the slave of ungovernable passion.**

Daniel 3:16-18

DANIEL CHAPTER 3

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 48

The whole universe was watching with inexpressible interest to see what these men would do. The controversy was not between Man and Satan, but between Christ and Satan, and eternal principles were at stake. Men were actors in the contest. They could stand as witnesses either for Christ or for Satan in this time of decision. Would they allow an unsanctified emotion to have possession of their lives, and compromise their faith? What could a religion be worth which admitted of compromise? What can any religion be worth if it does not teach loyalty to the God of heaven? What is there of any real value in the world, especially when on the very borders of eternity, unless it be God's acknowledgment of us as His children?

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 81, 82

The furnace was heated one seven times hotter than usual; in other words, to its utmost capacity. The king overreached himself in this; for even if the fire had been suffered to have its ordinary effect upon the ones he cast into the furnace, it would only have destroyed them the sooner. Nothing would have been gained by that means on the part of the king. But seeing they were delivered from it, much was gained on the part of the cause of God and His truth; for the more intense the heat, the greater and more impressive the miracle of being delivered from it. Every circumstance was calculated to show the direct power of God.

Daniel 3:20-23

Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, pg. 82

It was evident that the fire was under the control of some supernatural intelligence; for while it had effect upon the cords with which they were bound, destroying them, so that they were free to walk about in the midst of the fire, it did not even singe their garments. They did not, as soon as free, spring out of the fire, but continued therein; for, first, the king had put them in, and it was his place to call them out; and, secondly, the form of the fourth was with them, and in His presence they could be content and joyful, as well in the furnace of fire as in the delights and luxuries of the palace. Let us in all our trials, afflictions, persecutions, and straitened places, but have the "form of the fourth" with us, and it is enough.

Daniel 3:26-29

Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 54

Seldom are we placed in the same circumstances twice. Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Daniel, and others were sorely tried, even unto death, yet each test came in a different way. Every individual has an experience peculiar to his own character and circumstances. God has a work to accomplish in the life of each individual. Every act, however small, has its place in our life experience. God is more than willing to guide us in the right way. He has not closed the windows of heaven to prayer, but his ears are ever open to the cries of His children, and His eye watches every movement of Satan to counteract His work. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were men of like passions with ourselves. Their lives are given to show what man may become even in this life, if he will make God his strength and wisely improve the opportunities within his reach.