

IN SOVEREIGN HANDS

DANIEL: GOD'S REPRESENTATIVE TO HIS GENERATION

PART 6

NEVER ALONE

The Fourth Man in the Fire

(Daniel 3:16-30)

INTRODUCTION:

"For the LORD will not abandon His people,
Nor will He forsake His inheritance."

—Psalm 94:14

PREVIOUSLY FROM DANIEL 3... A FAITH THAT CAN STAND THE HEAT

"...who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire,..."

—Hebrews 11:32f.

The Story Behind the Story:

- God is working... 1) with a king. 2) ...with the nations. 3) ...with a people. 4) ... with His followers (a faithful remnant).

The Story and Its Narration: A Showdown

- A Clash of Worldviews and Worship.

1. THE DEDICATION OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S IMAGE (v. 1-7)

"Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits and its width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon."

2. THE DILEMMA OF DANIEL'S FRIENDS (v. 8-18)

"...if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands? (v. 14)

3. THE DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S POWER (v. 19-30)

"Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, 'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him,.... there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way...'"

TODAY: THE STORY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS: TAKING A _____

FOUR MARKS OF THE PERSON WHOSE FAITH FUNCTIONS IN THE FURNACE,...

"Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter.'"

1A. HE WILL BE _____ TO THE _____ OF GOD REGARDLESS OF THE _____ OF THE TRIAL.

"If it be so, our God whom we serve..." (v. 17a)

2A. HE WILL BE _____ IN THE _____ OF GOD REGARDLESS OF THE _____ OF THE TRIAL.

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king." (v. 17b)

3A. HE WILL BE _____ WITH THE _____ OF GOD REGARDLESS OF THE _____ OF THE TRIAL.

"But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up" (v. 18)

4A. HE WILL BE _____ BY THE _____ OF GOD REGARDLESS OF THE _____ OF THE TRIAL.

"...I see four men loosed an walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods!" (v. 25)

CONCLUSION:

"... 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are Mine!
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be scorched,
Nor will the flame burn you.
For I am the LORD your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior...'"

—Isaiah 43:1-3a