

## When you walk through the fire

**Opening Text: Daniel 3:16-25, 27; 4:2-3**

**Daniel 3:27** - *And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counsellors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the **fire had no power**; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.*

What an interesting statement to say that *fire had no power*. It is like saying, 'the ocean had no water'. What defines something as an 'ocean' is the water in it. Fire is defined by its power. Fire and *power* are words that always belong together.

Fire has devastating, destructive power – we know all about that here in Australia. When harnessed properly, in the hands of a blacksmith, or in the hands of a potter it can create something useful, or even beautiful. In both instances however, fire has tremendous power.

In this story, the power of that fire was employed to invoke horror and command obedience. The power of that fire was on display and seemed inescapable.

1. It was a furnace, not just a little fire or a barbecue
2. The furnace was heated 7 times more than usual (it takes about 1000 degrees to bake bricks but at 1200 degrees rock melts – it becomes lava). That kind of combustion released tremendous energy, heat and light! – that must have been a sight to behold!
3. The flame was so intense that the men who took Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego died an instant death as they approached the fire.

Everything about that fire was on a scale that was sure to intimidate anyone to absolute submission.

Such a furnace was probably one of several used primarily to bake the bricks used in the rebuilding of the city of Babylon (Babylon was being rebuilt on a grand scale in the days of Nebuchadnezzar, around 612B.C. After their defeat of Nineveh and the Assyrian empire. They had discovered that sun-dried bricks would disintegrate in a heavy rain fall but that bricks burned in one of these special ovens were indestructible. That was a major technological advancement in those days).

I visited the British Museum a few years ago where you can find a few of those very bricks on display, with the name of king Nebuchadnezzar still embossed in them. These were special, very large-scale ovens – probably never seen up to that time in history.

Everything about that scenario was impressive and scary. How was it that '*fire had no power*'?

4. Apart from the physical fire, Babylonians also believed that fire had supernatural powers. The Babylonians had 5 'fire gods' in their mythology.

In the Middle East there also was a 'fire god' mentioned in the Bible as Moloch (Leviticus and Ezekiel spoke against such worship).

So apart from the display of the natural power of fire, this furnace may have also been done as a spiritual display. It is known that Babylonians used fire for magical purposes.

However, this *fire had no power!*

In the recorded history of the lives of these men, it is written that *fire had no power* over them. What is your story going to be? Here's what Heaven wants to record about you:

- That **no fiery trial** has power over you

**1 Peter 4:12** - *12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;*

Let heaven record that as with these 3 men, fire also had no power over YOU,

- That **satan** had no power over you,
- That **sin** had no power over you
- That **discouragement** had no power over you
- That **worry** had no power over you
- That **anger** had no power over you
- That **addiction and the flesh** had power over you

### **1. Fire had no power because of their faith.**

Faith is the shield that quenches fiery darts from the wicked one (**Ephesians 6:16**). Faith doesn't just deflect fire but puts it off. Fire has no power against faith! Faith is your fire extinguisher!

**Hebrews 11:33-34** - *33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

### **2. Fire had no power because of their uncompromising spirit.**

Their loyalty to God was not up for negotiation. They were incorruptible and so God also kept them untouched by the fire.

Daniel and his friends lived surrounded by a culture completely hostile to their faith (much like today). However, they had an excellent spirit about them. They were unwavering in their principles, their values and their allegiance to God.

They refused to bow down to their idol and to dance to their music!

### **3. Fire had no power because of the One Who walked with them in the fire.**

Jesus is possibly that fourth man in the fire. He came to them and He walked with them in the midst of the fire. Even the king said, '*the form of the fourth is like the Son of God*' (V.25). The Son of God made a grand appearance on earth to show that with Him,

- Fire has no power,
- Every hellish plan of the enemy is neutralised,
- God's own people will never walk alone,
- The bound become loose (*I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire*).

About 90 years before this day, Isaiah had prophesied:

**Isaiah 43:2** - *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.*

Every promise God gives us in His Word is there for a time when it is going to be needed and God will be there to make sure it is fulfilled!

God wants you to know that this message is here because you will need it and He will walk with you, in your fire, to make sure the promise comes to pass.

### Conclusion

*<sup>27</sup>And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counsellors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and **the smell of fire was not on them.***

*... and the smell of fire was not on them!*

What's left of a fiery trial? In this story, not devastation, not even the smell of defeat.

They carried nothing negative out of that experience into their future, they were unaffected.

Many people who go through life-threatening situations are often left with different degrees of trauma. Many fail to ever recover emotionally and mentally. Certain events may still trigger memories and flashbacks, anxiety and fear.

Here Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego carried nothing negative into their future out that experience, not even the smell of fire – only a powerful testimony and the revelation of a God of signs and wonders!

**Daniel 4:1-3** *Nebuchadnezzar the king, to all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. <sup>2</sup>I thought it good to **declare** the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me. <sup>3</sup>How great are His signs, and how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation.*