

Jesus – Present in the Furnace

[Daniel 3:25](#)

It is amazing indeed to turn through the pages of God's Word and find the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament, He showed up many times in what is called in theological terms *theophanies*.

We briefly study now [Theophany Defined](#).

In this great 3rd Chapter of Daniel, we find three believers with maximum truth residing in their souls facing death. They were right in their souls, and they were happy even though they had apparently sealed their doom by saying, *"we are not careful to answer you (Nebuchadnezzar) in this matter"*. Divine viewpoint had permeated their thinking; they were not reckless, but very cognizant of the fact that the king could snuff out their lives by a single command – yet they were not afraid. What you really are is what you think. [Prov.23:7](#) declares: *"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he..."*; *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."* [Ex. 20:3](#) The Scriptures settled the issue for Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, and they did not desire to flatter the king, or even appeal to him for mercy – they simply stated the facts.

[Dan.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 thy hand, O King"*. [Dan.3:18](#) *"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."*

Note here: These men understood the Divine Laws of Establishment:

- Volition
- Marriage
- Family
- Nationalism

They considered duly established authority of primary importance. ([Dan.3:17](#), see again)

They also understood Divine Law #4, and with respect to the national leader, they made the statement in [Dan.3:18](#).

Jesus – Present in the Furnace (Continued)

WOW! Viewing from a Divine viewpoint they knew that the state did not have the right to force religion on its citizens, nor did believers have a right to force principles on the state. Because they could see from a vertical viewpoint, they rested entirely upon their Heavenly Father. They didn't try to earn or deserve deliverance, or even to coerce or bribe God; they were content for Him to determine their future (I Peter 4:19 – *“Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.”*) These are fantastic Jewish Believers. What did they know? They knew that God determines life and death (Psa.31:15a). *“My times are in Thy hand.”*

These three men did not try to save themselves; there is no mincing of words here; no double-talk, or attempt to flatter a furious king. *“We will not serve nor worship the golden image.”* Dan. 3:19 shows how miserable and unhappy Nebuchadnezzar was. Nightmares at first had kept him awake, then when things changed for him, pride took over. He had opportunity for genuine peace, joy and happiness when Daniel presented the Gospel to him after seeing God's power manifested greatly (Dan. 2:46-48).

What makes the difference between Happiness and Misery? Here we see a King minus the Lord, minus Truth and orientation to God's Plan for life – MISERABLE! On the other hand, we see three men facing death, with maximum soul food saturation – HAPPY! Now in Dan. 3:19 we find an enraged, furious King with abnormal facial contractions, a violent mental attitude, and now ruled by his emotions. He got his best soldiers and laid their lives on the line because of his muddled, confused, perplexed mind. Needless death comes to these great soldiers – because of sloppy thinking of a national leader (Dan. 3:20-22). STOP on Dan. 3:23 – The men who cast Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego into the furnace were killed by the tremendous heat, while these three prisoners were not harmed. Their hands and feet were securely tied – but not for long!

We can't stop here! Look at Dan. 3:24, 25 & 26.

- No burned bodies
- No clothes destroyed
- No hair singed
- No smell of fire

Ultimately, this king could only say: *“Ye servants of the most-high God.”*