

## FAITH UNDER FIRE

Daniel 3:8-12

### They Could Plead Authority

- ▣ Must render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's. **Matthew 22:21**
- ▣ Must obey God rather than men.
  - **Acts 4:18-20; Acts 5:27-29** Apostles feared God.
  - **cf. Exodus 1:15-17** Midwives feared God.

### They Could Plead Obligation

- ▣ Nebuchadnezzar was a friend and benefactor. **cf. Daniel 1:17-19; 2:49; 3:12**
  - Moses made a choice. **Hebrews 11:24**
  - Friends, Relatives. **Matthew 10:34-38; cf. Job**
  - Husband, Wife. **cf. Ephesians 5:22; 1 Peter 3:1-4**
  - Children, Parents. **Ephesians 6:1-2**
  - Family religion. **Philippians 3:3-8; Galatians 1:13-14**

If friends & family do I will not!

### They Could Plead Universality Of Compliance

- ▣ Popular thing. **Exodus 23:2; cf. Exodus 32:1-6** (Aaron)
- ▣ People wanted a King. **1 Samuel 8**
- ▣ Saul's explanation. **1 Samuel 15**
- ▣ Elijah. **1 Kings 19:10**
- ▣ We are to be a peculiar people. **Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9; cf. Romans 12:2**
- ▣ Never alone. **Isaiah 1:9; Matthew 7:13-14; Hebrews 13:5**

If all yield, I will not!

### They Could Plead The Dreadfulness Of The Penalty

- ▣ Circumstances sometimes makes cowards out of us. **cf. John 12:42**
- ▣ Compare our suffering with those who have gone before. **2 Corinthians 1:3-7** Paul's suffering a comfort; **cf. 11:23-27**
- ▣ **cf. 1 Peter 1:7-9** Proof of your faith; **4:14-19**

"We will not"!

### Sometimes Things Are Not As Bad As They Seem

- ▣ Christ always the victor. (**Book of Revelation**) **1:18; 2:8; 5:9; 6:2; 11:15; 12:9ff; 14:1,14; 15:2ff; 19:16; 20:4; 22:3**
- ▣ Theme of the Book:  
*Revelation 17:14 "These shall war against the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them, for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they (also shall overcome) that are with him, called and chosen and faithful."*

"Our God ... will deliver us!" Daniel 3:17

### Consider What Their Trials Brought Them ...

#### A new sense of freedom!

- a. They entered bound, but were soon seen "loose, walking." **Daniel 3:23-25**
- b. The very thing presumed to destroy them, enabled them to walk freely!
- c. So our own trials can be used to set us truly free! – **James 1: 2-4; Romans 5:3-5**

### Consider What Their Trials Brought Them ...

#### A new source of fellowship!

- a. Note: There was a fourth person in the fire! **Daniel 3:25**
- b. So our trials can bring us closer to God  
**Hebrews 12:5-11; Revelation 3:12, 21**

### Consider What Their Trials Brought Them ...

#### A new opportunity for service!

- a. They were promoted to even higher positions! **Daniel 3:28-30**
- b. Just as Joseph, who in his trials went: 1)  
From slave to steward. **Genesis 39:19-23**  
1) From prisoner to Pharaoh's second hand man! **Genesis 41:37-44**
- c. So our faithfulness in trials will lead to greater things! **Matthew 25:21; Revelation 2:25-27**

### Conclusion

- ▣ WE WILL NOT ... **Daniel 3:16ff**
- ▣ God delivered them. **Daniel 3:28-29**
- ▣ Labor not in vain. **1 Corinthians 15:58; cf. Psalms 15:1-3**