

Elder Bobby Willis



A Literal, Burning, Fiery Furnace

There are skeptics who say the “fiery furnace” of Daniel 3 did not exist. These people are the same ones who say that Creation was by evolution and not by God; that Job was just a good story; that David’s giant, Goliath, never really existed, and that the three Hebrew children were never thrown into a burning fiery furnace.

My dear ones in Christ, these things did occur just like the Bible said. I love it when archaeological discoveries show the accuracy of the Bible rather than discrediting it as some surmise. In Daniel 3:6, it speaks of what will happen to those Chaldeans and Jews alike who would not worship a golden image that had been set up by King Nebuchadnezzar. The herald who cried aloud said, “**And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.**”

There were three Hebrews, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, who would not bow to this image. The names commonly used are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; but these were not their given names, but rather names given to them by the prince (or master) of the eunuchs under King Nebuchadnezzar. Note: He also changed Daniel’s name to Belteshazzar.

The three mentioned Hebrew young men were staunch, rock solid believers in remaining faithful to God. Notice: “**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. 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. 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**” (Daniel 3:16-18).

I do not under normal circumstances use other mens writings outside of the Bible to show a point. (Notice: I did not say “prove” a point, as the Bible is its best interpreter) However, I ran across this bit of information from a book entitled “*Dead Men Tell Tales*” by Harry Rimmer (1939). On page 325 he writes of a discovery of a firing kiln which was discovered near the site of Babylon. A

cuneiform inscription depicted the use of the kiln was not of making bricks or pottery. It said, **“This is the place of burning where men who blasphemed the gods of Chaldea died by fire.”** This site may not be the one used by Nebuchadnezzar, but could be one similar.

We know from biblical history that it was not uncommon for people to be burned with fire till death. Read the rendering concerning Achan who had troubled Joshua and all Israel in Joshua 7:24-26 where it says they **“burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.”** Or, the words of Jeremiah in chapter 49:2, **“Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will cause an alarm of war to be heard in Rabbah of the Ammonites; and it shall be a desolate heap, and her daughters shall be burned with fire: then shall Israel be heir unto them that were his heirs, saith the Lord.”** In addition, there are a number of places where whole cities were burned along with all of the inhabitants: namely Sodom and Gomorrah.

The Bible is true whether there are any archaeological discoveries or not. As Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 2:15, we are to **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”** The record of God’s providence with Adam, Noah, Ruth, Esther, Samson, David, Joshua, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Job, Daniel, Paul, and all the other Bible characters, including the three Hebrew children, is to be read, studied, and believed by all born again Children of God. In our troubled times, we would all do well to pay heed and hold these truths firmly. **“Think About IT”**