

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF GOD

RLJ-1484

JOHN S. TORELL

FEBRUARY 22, 2015

PART 12: TRIAL BY FIRE

In this message, I want to deal with individuals who could not protect themselves but were protected supernaturally by the power of God. What kind of preparation had to be done, if any?

MAKING A CHOICE

The southern kingdom of Judah had been conquered by the Babylonian army; the walls of Jerusalem had been breached; the temple had been destroyed; hundreds of thousands of Jews had been killed or forced to march to Babylon as slaves.

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were four young Jewish men, probably in their late teens, who had been forcibly removed from their families and carried off to Babylon in the first deportation wave in 604 B.C.

They had been selected along with a number of other Jewish young men who showed leadership capability to be trained to work in the Babylonian government.

It was normal at this time in history for state servants to be castrated and be made a eunuch to secure their loyalty. The loyalty came from their inability to marry and produce children, allowing them to devote their lives to serving the king. The man in charge of this program was also castrated. **Daniel 1:1-4**

Imagine being a young Jewish man and finding yourself in the enemy's capital and having your reproductive capacity permanently removed. Additionally, you would not know if your parents and siblings were dead or alive. All hope of having a Jewish nation was destroyed and the only remaining pleasure in life was eating food.

Adding misery, you are informed that you can no longer keep your Hebrew name; you must accept a new one in the language of the hated conquerors. **verses 5-7**

Daniel and his three friends had been brutally uprooted from Judah and taken to Babylon as captives and it is obvious that these four men were not looking at the current circumstances; instead, they were looking beyond to a future city that would last for eternity. **Hebrews 11:10, 13-16**

The four teenagers asked to be excused when they were informed that they were going to eat meat from the palace kitchen that had been taken from animals sacrificed to the gods of Babylon. **Daniel 1:8-14**

There were other young Jewish men at the Babylonian court, but their spirits had been broken, they had lost their vision and accepted the leftover meat from the altars of the gods of Babylon. God prospered his four faithful servants so that they stood out above the rest at the end of the trial period. **verse 15**



TRIAL BY FIRE

It is an understatement to say that the Devil hates God. The Devil is burning with an insatiable hatred that is only matched by God's love for mankind. He tried to attack the throne of God and destroy Him. **Isaiah 14:12-15**

Since the Devil cannot hurt God, he will attack mankind because we are made in the image of God, knowing that this will grieve the Lord. **Job 1:7-12; 2:3-7**

Jesus warned the apostle Peter that the Devil was coming to attack him. **Luke 22:31-32**

It infuriated the Devil when God blessed Daniel and his three friends. **Daniel 2:46-49**

Satan put in the heart of King Nebuchadnezzar to create an idol of gold and force the people in his kingdom to worship the statue. **Daniel 3:1-7**

This was Satan's attempt to destroy Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. **verses 8-12**

The wrath of Satan was unleashed using Nebuchadnezzar to issue an ultimatum for the three Jewish young men to worship the idol or die. **verses 13-15**

The three men did not pray over the matter; they had made up their minds to be fully committed to God and would not abandon the Lord to serve an idol of gold. **verses 16-18**

This made Nebuchadnezzar very angry and he ordered them thrown into the fiery furnace. **verses 19-23**

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD

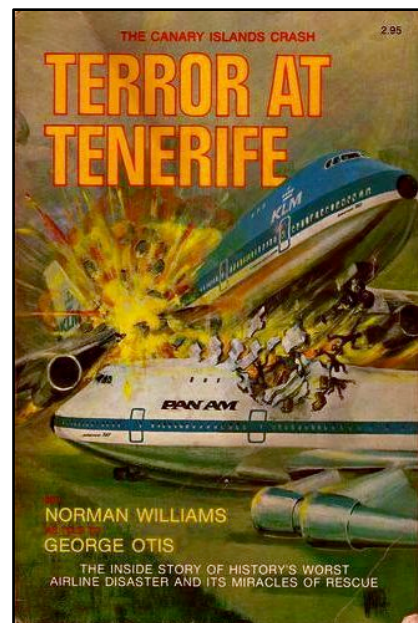
At this point, Jesus decided to personally enter the fight against the Devil. The Creator put a supernatural protection over them so that the fire and the heat did not hurt them. **verses 24-25**

King Nebuchadnezzar had to admit that the gods of Babylon were inferior to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. **verses 26-30**

God is still a worker of miracles; He is the same yesterday, today and forever. **Hebrews 13:8**

On March 27, 1977, two Boeing 747 jumbo jets collided on the runway at the airport of Tenerife on the Canary Islands. More than 563 people burned to death. There were only 61 survivors. One of them was a Christian man from California.

I personally heard Norman Williams recount one Sunday morning in 1978, the story of how he survived the fiery cabin and was able to walk down a burning aisle without being harmed by the fire. He was lifted up by an angel through a hole in the fuselage and able to slide down to the wing. As he stood on the wing about 15 feet from the ground, fear suddenly gripped him and he broke his leg when he landed on the ground. Norman was able to crawl away from the wreckage and was picked up by



emergency workers.

The fire could not touch him just like it did not touch Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. You can listen to his powerful testimony.¹ He also wrote a book about his supernatural experience entitled, "Terror at Tenerife."

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?

¹ www.eaec.org/testimonies/norman-williams.htm