



Daniel 3:24-30

8/2/20 PM

THE DECREE OF A DICTATOR

Introduction:



- I. A TEST OF FAITH** (vs. 1-12)
 - A. The Construction of the Image (vs. 1)
 - B. The Convocation at the Image (vs. 2-7)
 - C. The Conflict over the Image (vs. 8-12)
- II. A TESTIMONY OF FAITH** (vs. 13-23)
 - A. The Attitude of the King (vs. 13-15)
 - B. The Answer of the Hebrews (vs. 16-18)
 - C. The Anger of the King (vs. 19-23)

III. THE TRIUMPH OF FAITH (vs. 24-30)

A. The Protection of God (vs. 24-27)

“the king was astounded and stood up in haste..., ‘Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?’”

“I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire...and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods”

“Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!”

“the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them”

B. The Proclamation of the King (vs. 28-29)

“Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego...”

“who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God”

“I make a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against...God...”

“torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap”

“there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way”

C. The Promotion of the Three Men (vs. 30)

“Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon.”

Conclusion:

- 1) Loyalty to God and His Word is not a thing to be compromised under any circumstances.
- 2) Suffering, whether it seems fair or not, may well be part of God's purpose for you.
- 3) God is still and always sovereign, whether the result of your obedience ends in triumph or in tragedy.

Homiletic Outline of Daniel

- Ch. 1 - Dealing with Deportation
- Ch. 2 - Deciphering a Dream
- Ch. 3 - Decree of a Dictator
- Ch. 4 - Dissolution of a Despot
- Ch. 5 - Downfall of a Dynasty
- Ch. 6 - Daniel Under Darius the Mede
- Ch. 7 - Distressing Developments
- Ch. 8 - Displays of Dominance
- Ch. 9 - Doom and Dismay
 - Excursus: Deliverance from Desolation (9:20-27)
- Ch. 10 - Disturbing Destiny
- Ch. 11 - Dashing Toward Destruction
- Ch. 12 - Divine Dominion