

FAITHFULNESS IN ADVERSITY

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](#); cf. [Exodus 1:15-17](#)

They Could Plead Obligation

- ▣ Nebuchadnezzar was a friend and benefactor. cf. [Daniel 3:12](#); [1:17-19](#)
- ▣ Moses made a choice. [Hebrews 11:24](#)
- ▣ Friends, Relatives. [Matthew 10:34-38](#)
- ▣ Husband, Wife. cf. [Eph. 5:22](#); [1 Pet. 3:1ff](#)
- ▣ Children, Parents. [Ephesians 6:1-2](#)
- ▣ Family religion. [Phil. 3:3ff](#); [Gal. 1:13-14](#)
- ▣ Some make the wrong choice. [Luke 14:15-24](#); [Matthew 6:33](#)

They Could Plead Universality Of Compliance

- ▣ Popular thing. [Exodus 23:2](#)
- ▣ 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 Pet. 2:9](#); cf. [Rom. 12:2](#)
- ▣ Never alone. [Isa. 1:9](#); [Mt. 7:13-14](#); [Heb. 13:5](#)

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 1:3ff](#); [11:23ff](#)
- ▣ cf. [1 Peter 1:7-9](#); [4:14-19](#)

Assurances From Revelation

- ▣ God sees their tears. [7:17](#); [21:4](#)
- ▣ Their prayers rule the world. [8:3-4](#)
- ▣ Their death is recognized as precious. [14:13](#); [20:4](#)
- ▣ Their final victory is assured. [15:2](#)
- ▣ Their blood will be avenged. [6:9](#)

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:
Rev 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."

Sometimes Things Are Not As Bad As They Seem

- ▣ Seem filthy ... Robes washed with the blood of the lamb. 7:14
- ▣ Seem saints are killed ... They stand upon their feet. 11:11
- ▣ Seem prayers are not heard. 6:10 ... Prayers heard and answered. 8:3-5
- ▣ Seem saints are defeated ... they reign and are victorious. 5:10; 20:4

Consider What Their Trials Brought Them...

1. A new sense of freedom!

- a. They entered bound, but were soon seen "loose, walking." Dan. 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; Rom. 5:3-5; Rev. 2:25-27

Consider What Their Trials Brought Them...

2. 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
Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 3:12,21; 7:13-17

Consider What Their Trials Brought Them...

3. A new opportunity for service!

- a. They were promoted to even higher positions!
Daniel 3:30
- b. Just as Joseph, who in his trials went: 1) From slave to steward 2) From prisoner to Pharaoh's second hand man!
- c. So our faithfulness in trials will lead to greater things! Mt. 25:21; Rev. 2:25-27

Conclusion

- ▣ WE WILL NOT ... Daniel 3:16ff
- ▣ God delivered them. Daniel 3:28-29
- ▣ God admires those who stand by their principles. Psalms 15:1-3