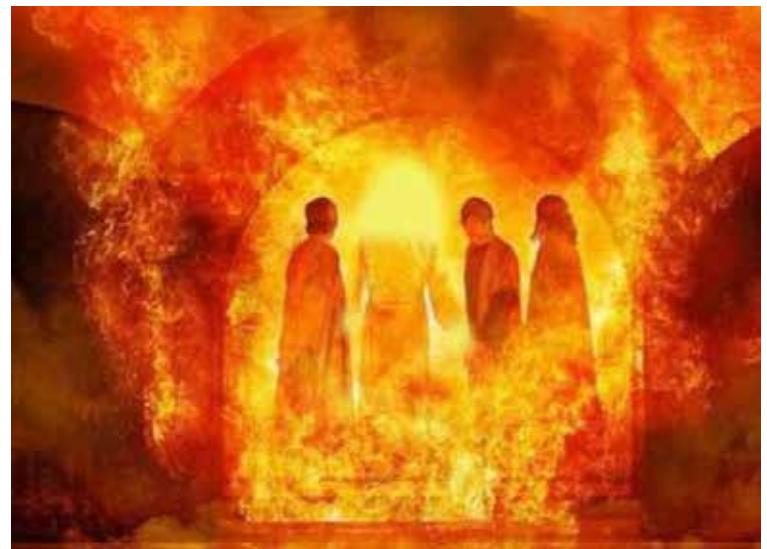


*"Beloved, think it not strange concerning **The Fiery Trial** which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: **1 Peter 4:12 KJV***

God didn't keep the three Hebrew children out of the fiery furnace, but He joined them in it! According to today's passage, we can expect severe trials in our earthly passage, but we also have God's Promise He will never leave nor forsake us. Long journeys are made pleasant not by the road conditions, but by the company with whom we travel. If we focus our attention on the distresses and cares of others with a view to helping them, our own burdens won't be so troublesome. Jesus never had a cushy earthly life. As a carpenter's son he would have spent long hours hewing, sawing, and shaping wood, not to mention the everyday chores of livestock and home care of those days and let us not forget the required studies of every Jewish boy of the Torah. There is not much mention of Joseph after Jesus' twelfth birthday and many believe he died, which would have put the burden of the household on the eldest son. There are no recorded miracles prior to the wedding at Cana, so we know Jesus did all the labor manually. Furthermore, His miracles were always for others, not Himself. The three Hebrews fully expected to perish in the fiery furnace, but God honored their faith and showed proud king Nebuchadnezzar who was really in charge! God will do the same in your life if you trust and honor Him even in the face of certain death! Faith isn't faith if it deserts you in the fire! You may be glad to be a Christian when there's singing, but are you still glad when there's weeping? "*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the Race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our Faith; who for the Joy that was set before Him ENDURED the Cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the Right Hand of the Throne of God. For consider [Jesus] that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*" Satan deftly uses our physical frame and that of others to vex and weary us in the "*Race that is set before us.*" What is that Race? "*And we know that all things (even the fiery trials) work together FOR GOOD to them that Love God, to them who are the called according to His Purpose. For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, that He might be the Firstborn among many brethren.*" So the question remains; "What is more important to you; your purpose or God's Purpose?" Your answer will determine if you are alone in the Furnace!



The fiery trials of earthly life,
Will be for us nothing but strife,
If we neglect the God of Peace,
And in His Word firmly believe! ~CGP

What is your daily purpose? To survive or to thrive? It will depend upon your mindset at the beginning of each day. Start each day with God and never leave His Side! Put Scripture in frames around your house to remind you even in the chaos the God Loves you and cares even about the tiniest detail!

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? / Nay, in All These Things we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS through Him that Loved us." Romans 8:31, 37 KJV