



04-26-2020

The Way Maker: When In Babylon

Romans 15:4 - *Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.*

- **They First Had To Endure The Shame And Suffering Of Captivity**

Deuteronomy 4:20 - *Remember that the Lord rescued you from the iron-smelting furnace of Egypt in order to make you his very own people and his special possession, which is what you are today.*

Isaiah 48:10 - *I have refined you, but not as silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering.*

- **Our Call To Faithfulness As God Refines Us**

Daniel 3:1,4-6,16-18 - *King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue ninety feet tall and nine feet wide and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon...⁴ Then a herald shouted out, "People of all races and nations and languages, listen to the king's command!"⁵ When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments, bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue.⁶ Anyone who refuses to obey will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."⁷...¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you.¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty.¹⁸ But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."*

Isaiah 43:1-2 - *...Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.² When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.*

- **Faith Is Obeying God Regardless Of Our Feelings, Circumstances, Or Consequences Standing Before Us**

Exodus 20:3,5 - *"You must not have any other god but me...⁵ You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods..."*

- **Allow God To Do With Them As He Chooses**

Daniel 3:19,25,27,30 - *Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual...²⁵ "Look!" Nebuchadnezzar shouted. "I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!"²⁷ ...the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn't even smell of smoke!...³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.*

- **God Allowed The Men To Be Thrown Into The Furnace, But He Went In With Them**
- **By One Act Of Faith, These Men Became Witnesses Of The One True God**

Isaiah 43:2 - *When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.*