**Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace**

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, companions of Daniel in captivity in Babylon, in unswerving loyalty to God refused to worship the golden image set up by King Nebuchadnezzar, and so were cast into a fiery furnace. They walked unharmed in the flames and beside them appeared another whose form was “like the Son of God.” They were brought forth unscathed; not a hair of their head was singed, “nor the smell of fire had passed on them” (Dan. 3:1–27). (Shotwell 171).

Questions to ponder:

1. What qualities of thought did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego express?
   1. Trust; confidence; love; humility; alertness; goodness; obedience
2. What was expressed by King Nebuchadnezzar?
   1. Arrogance pride, ego,
3. What did “the mighty men” represent?
   1. Pride, vanity, love of popularity, ease in material splendor, resistance to God’s will
4. What was the culture and environment of Babylon at this time? (This was the mental environment the three young boys lived and worked in.)
   1. Extremely wealthy
   2. Extragavant
   3. Pagan; sensual
5. What would ‘falling down’ and worshipping the golden calf represent today?
   1. Going along with the crowd
   2. Leaving your own culture and standards behind
   3. Worshipping worldly knowledge
   4. Physical science
   5. Materia medica
   6. Any kind of ‘other gods’
6. Whom do you serve and worship?
   1. Surgery: diet?: exercise? Hygiene? Antibiotics?
   2. Sensuality? Materiality?
   3. TV; sports; pleasure?
7. What does the ‘smell of fire’ symbolize?
   1. The remembrance of it, the sting of it, the resentment over it
   2. The acknowledgement that evil has ever happened
   3. Evil has a history
   4. The fire is out, but it once existed, and we were in it
   5. Self-pity; sympathy
   6. Self-condemnation
   7. Belief of any kind of material past