

Daniel 3:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

Analysis

Nebuchadnezzar's amazement—"Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?"—begins his recognition of divine intervention. The question to his counselors seeks confirmation of what he commanded, establishing baseline reality before describing the impossible. His astonishment shows even hostile authorities can recognize God's supernatural work. The repetition of details (three men, bound, into fire) emphasizes the certainty of what should have happened versus what he now observes. This question sets up the stunning declaration to follow.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings typically surrounded themselves with advisors who confirmed and supported royal decisions. Nebuchadnezzar's question to counselors served multiple purposes: verifying his memory, sharing his astonishment, and establishing witnesses to the miracle. Court officials present at the execution would have watched the three men thrown into the furnace, making the coming revelation even more shocking. The king's need for confirmation shows the miracle's unexpectedness—it violated all natural expectations.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does even hostile witnesses' testimony to God's miraculous intervention strengthen faith's credibility?
2. What does the king's careful verification teach about ensuring we properly understand situations before drawing conclusions?

Interlinear Text

Then	נָבוּכָדְנָזָר	מלךָא:	טוּ הַ	זֶקְמָ	בַּהַתְבָּלֵל
H116	H5020	H4430	H8429	H6966	H927
They answered	וְאָמַרְיָה	לְפִזְבָּרְתָּה	גַּבְרֵי	תְּלִמְתָּה	עַבְדֵי
H6032	H560	H1907	H3809	H1400	H8532
we cast	רְמִינָא	לְגֹזָא	מִכְפְּתִי	עַבְדֵי	וְאָמַרְיָה
H7412	H1459	H5135	H3729	H6032	H560
O king	אֶצְבָּא:	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ
H4430	H3330	H4430	H4430	H4430	H4430

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 6:22 (Kingdom): My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me: and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Daniel 6:7 (Kingdom): All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

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