

Daniel 3:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

Analysis

And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power—The Aramaic emphasizes miraculous preservation through accumulation of evidence. The fire had **no power** (la-shalet, לא-שָׁלֵט, "did not rule/have dominion") over their bodies. **Nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them**—Four specific proofs:

1. no hair singed
2. clothing unchanged
3. no burn smell.

The totality of preservation demonstrates complete divine protection.

The witnesses—princes (achashdarpanayya), governors (signanayya), captains (pachawatha), and counsellors (hadabrey malka)—represent Babylon's power structure. Their unanimous testimony prevents dismissing the miracle as illusion or exaggeration. These officials gathered to watch execution; instead they witnessed vindication. The phrase "the smell of fire had not passed on them" (reyach nur la 'adat behon, רְיחַ נָר לֹא עָלָת בָּהָן) is particularly striking—even close

proximity to fire leaves scent on clothing, yet these men emerged odorless.

This miracle foreshadows Christ's victory over death. Just as fire couldn't touch Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, death couldn't hold Jesus (Acts 2:24). The fourth figure in the fire (3:25), "like the Son of God," prefigures Christ's presence with His people in suffering. God doesn't always deliver from the fire (Hebrews 11:34-38) but always delivers through it. Believers facing persecution can trust that Christ walks with them in the furnace, preserving their essential identity even when circumstances threaten to consume them.

Historical Context

This miracle occurred around 594 BC during Nebuchadnezzar's construction of a golden image on the plain of Dura. The fiery furnace was likely a brick kiln or lime kiln heated to extreme temperatures. Ancient Near Eastern kings used public executions to enforce loyalty and suppress dissent. The miracle's public nature—witnessed by assembled officials—maximized its apologetic impact, demonstrating Yahweh's supremacy over Babylonian gods and imperial power. Nebuchadnezzar's subsequent decree (3:28-29) shows pagans recognizing Israel's God, fulfilling missionary purposes through Jewish exile.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's complete preservation of the three men—down to hair and clothing—demonstrate His attention to every detail of His servants' lives?
2. When has Christ's presence in your 'furnace' made the difference between being consumed and being refined?

Interlinear Text

וְמִתְכַּשֵּׁין	אֲמַשְׁדִּירָפְנִי	סְנִינִי	וּפְחוּתָא	וּבְדָבָר
being gathered together	And the princes	governors	and captains	counsellors
H3673	H324	H5460	H6347	H1907
וְרָא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא
and the king's	saw	men	these	had no
H4430	H2370	H1400	H479	H3809
לְגַבְבֵּי	אֶל	אֶל	דִּי	דִּי
of fire	to	to	to	to
H5135	H7981	H1768	H3809	H2761
וְרָא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא
upon whose bodies	was an hair	of their head	had no	singed
H1655	H8177	H7217	H3809	H2761
בְּגַשְׁמָה	וְרָא	כִּאֲשָׁהָן	וְשָׁעַר	הַתְּפִבָּבָן
coats	hair	head	had no	singed
H5622				
וְרָא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא
had no	changed	the smell	of fire	had no
H3809	H8133	H7382	H5135	H3809
בְּהַקְוֹן	עַד	תַּחַת	שָׁבָן	וְ
smell	edge	under	burned	had passed
H0				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 43:2 (Parallel theme): When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Hebrews 11:34 (Parallel theme): Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Isaiah 26:11 (Parallel theme): LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them.

Acts 27:34 (Parallel theme): Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.

Psalms 83:18 (Parallel theme): That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

Matthew 10:30 (Parallel theme): But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

2 Kings 19:19 (Kingdom): Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.

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