

## TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

## For Teachers of Bible Classes

Have the class follow Daniel's career. Discuss the king's dream (ch. 2) and Daniel's interpretation, showing how it served to keep alive the hope that God's kingdom would be established on the earth. Ch. 3 follows with the teaching that the fiery furnace was preferable to a denial of Jehovah, who could and did save His own. Bring out the story of the setting up of the image, the king's command, and the attitude of Daniel's friends. The main points for questioning and explanation are :

1. *The refusal to worship the image*, vs. 13-18. Call attention to : (a) The king's rage and self-conceit, also his insolence toward God. (Compare Ex. 5 : 2 ; 2 Chron. 32 : 13-17 ; Isa. 36 : 20.) (b) The reply,—its straightforward tone, its trust in God, its obedience in life or death. Dwell upon the fact that these men manifested such heroic fidelity, though they were surrounded by heathen, lived amidst heathen influences, and lacked the light and inspiration of gospel times.

2. *The fiery furnace*, vs. 19-23. Note the punishment prepared, and the fury of the flames as seen in the destruction of the executioners. Use the incident as an illustration of the world's hatred of the followers of God both in Christian and heathen lands.

3. *The great deliverance*, vs. 24-28. Question out the details,—the king's astonishment, his vision, the deliverance, and the king's command. Who was the fourth seen walking in the furnace ?

The main teaching of the Lesson incident is, that all who love God must obey Him even if obedience leads to death. Use the Lesson as an outstanding illustration of faith in God.

Emphasize the importance of fidelity in religion. The common criticism that Christians are not consistent with their profession, reveals the weight which non-Christians attach to downright sincerity. Every weakness is a decided loss to the kingdom of God. The truth wins, as it is lived.

## For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

The Lesson is a prime favorite amongst the young. Picture the scene on the plain,—the great multitude of notables, the huge golden image, the loud cry of the herald who made the proclamation, the outburst of music, the multitude prostrate before the golden image, three men standing upright in the midst of the prostrate throng. Who were these three ? Why did they not fall down before the image ? Get some one to tell how the king found out that these men had disobeyed his command (see vs. 8-12).

1. *The King's Interview with The Three Hebrews*, vs. 13-18. What question did the king ask ? What offer did he make ? What threat did he utter ? How proud and defiant the king is, when referring to the God of Israel (see v. 15, last clause) ! Compare his words with those of Pharaoh (Ex. 5 : 2), and with those of Sennacherib, Isa. 36 : 20. What have the three Hebrews to say for themselves ? (Vs. 16-18.) Dwell upon the great faith and courage of these men,—they were the stuff, surely, out of which heroes are made. They know history and life well enough to know that God does not always deliver His people from danger ; but they know that God always does what is right, and best. They cannot, therefore, be frightened into doing what is wrong. Impress upon the class that faith in God is the only thing that can make us strong to resist evil.

2. *The King's Decree*, vs. 19-23. It will not be necessary to dwell upon the carrying out of this decree. No scholar will ever forget it. What has Christianity done to lessen the barbarous cruelties of capital punishment ? Should capital punishment be abolished ? There will be no difficulty in getting up an interesting discussion over this subject.

3. *The King's Defeat*, vs. 24-28. Bring out the details of these verses. What the king witnessed led him to realize that the God of the Hebrews was greater than the gods of the Babylonians.

Emphasize the teaching that the king's challenge (v. 15), made the conflict one between himself and the God of the Hebrews. Press home the truth that victory is always sure to be on God's side. Are we on His side ?