

so closely had the servants of the King obeyed his orders, that the heat from the furnace killed the men who were employed to cast the Jews into it. After they had been for some time in this dreadful place, Nebuchadnezzar, in astonishment, called to his counsellors, and asked them whether three men had not been cast into the furnace. And they answered and said "Yes, oh King." "And Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, and walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

The King now hastened to call the Jews by name, and bade them come forth; and he called them servants of the Most High God. And well he might, for they came out of the furnace, and not a hair of their heads, or a shred of their garments, had been singed or injured; and the result of this wonderful interposition of the Most High, in favour of those who chose rather to suffer a painful death, than acknowledge any other God, was, that Nebuchadnezzar, wicked as he was, could not resist the conviction that their's was the only true worship, and he commanded that no other God should be worshipped in his kingdom but the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

As all Scriptures were written for our improvement, we must not read those narratives of the Old Testament merely as matters of history, and from the one you have just heard many lessons of faith and obedience and trust in the power and providence of our Heavenly Father may be learned. There is indeed no situation of trial in which it is worth while to sacrifice a principle to escape any consequences that may seem to threaten us in this world for our perseverance in that course which