**These Perilous Times**

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**“The Refiner’s Fire-Character Development**

**(Part II)**

 In the last issue of TPT it was clearly stated that our characters, as professed followers of Christ will be on display for a testimony for all the world to see. I want to allude back to Daniel chapter 3 to observe how three Hebrew young men witnessed to the whole province of Babylon.

“Your Majesty has issued an order that as soon as the music starts, everyone is to bow down and worship the gold statue, and anyone who does not bow down and worship “it” is to be thrown into a *blazing furnace.* There are some Jews whom you put in charge of the province of Babylon-Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego-who are disobeying Your Majesty’s orders. They do not worship your god or bow down to the statue you set up…” Dan. 3:10-12 TEV

The disregard of Nebuchadnezzar’s decree by the three Hebrew young men to bow to the golden statue enraged him, and the king ordered them to be brought to him at once (Dan. 3:13 paraphrased)!

**Shadrach Meshach and Abednego’s response to the king’s questioning**

**(See Dan. 3:13-16)**

They made up their minds that even if the God of heaven wouldn’t save them, they would not worship the golden statue. Their characters were on display and they passed the *fiery trial* test with flying colors!

**Let’s notice a well-known verse from Psalm 23**

“Yeah, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, Your rod and Your staff they comfort me.”

 Psalm 23:4 NKJV

**Counsel from God’s inspired messenger**

**(Divine Experiments)**

“The Lord Jesus is making experiments of human hearts through the exhibition of his mercy and abundant grace. He is effecting *transformations so amazing* that Satan, with his triumphant boasting, with all his confederacy of evil united against God and the laws of his government, stands viewing them as a fortress impregnable to his sophistries and delusions. They are to him an inapprehensible mystery. *The angels of God, seraphim and cherubim, the powers commissioned to cooperate with human agencies, look on with astonishment and joy, that fallen men, once children of wrath, are through the training of Christ developing characters after the divine similitude*, to be sons and daughters of God, to act an important part in the occupations and pleasures of heaven…” [[1]](#footnote-1)

**A familiar Text**

“You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead, he puts it on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, *so that they will see the good things*

*do* ***and praise your Father in heaven***.” TEV (Emphasis supplied)

**Counsel from God’s inspired messenger**

“It is the privilege of the Christian to connect with the source of light, and through this living connection become the *light of the world*. Christ’s true followers will walk in the light as *He is in the light*, and therefore they will not travel in an uncertain way, stumbling because they walk in darkness… *All may be channels of light if they will connect to the* ***Source*** *of light*. They can communicate the bright rays to the world…”[[2]](#footnote-2) (See also John 1:1-9).

1. E. G. White, Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 18. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. E, G. White. Our High Calling, p. 296. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)