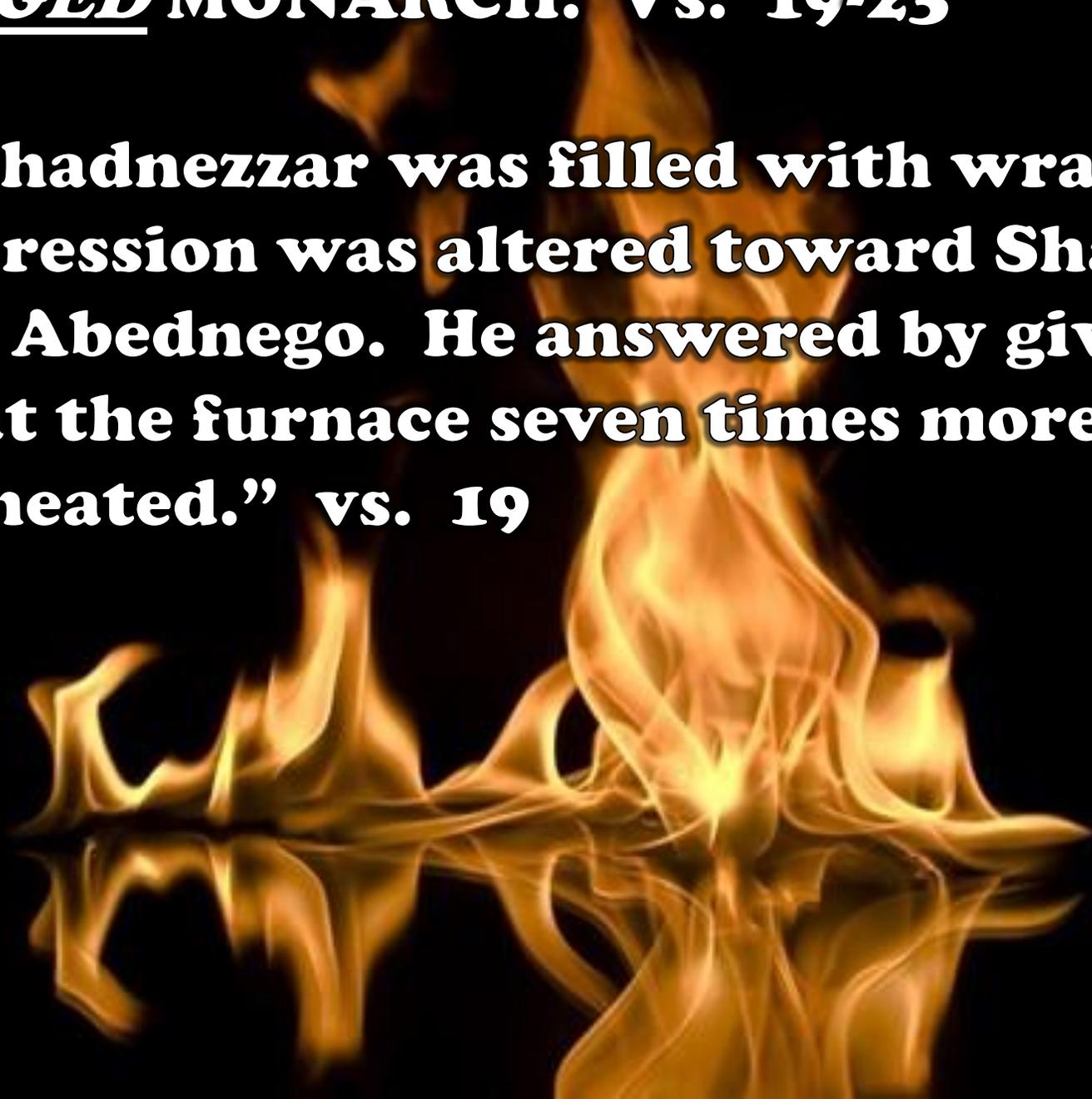


IN THE FIRE?



1. AN ENRAGED MONARCH. Vs. 19-23

“Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and his facial expression was altered toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He answered by giving orders to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.” vs. 19



“And he commanded certain valiant warriors who were in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, in order to cast them into the furnace of blazing fire. Then those men were tied up in their trousers, their coats, their caps and their other clothes, and were cast into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire.” vs. 20-21

“For this reason, because the king’s command was urgent and the furnace had been made extremely hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire still tied up.” vs. 22-23

2. AN ASTONISHED MONARCH. Vs. 24-27

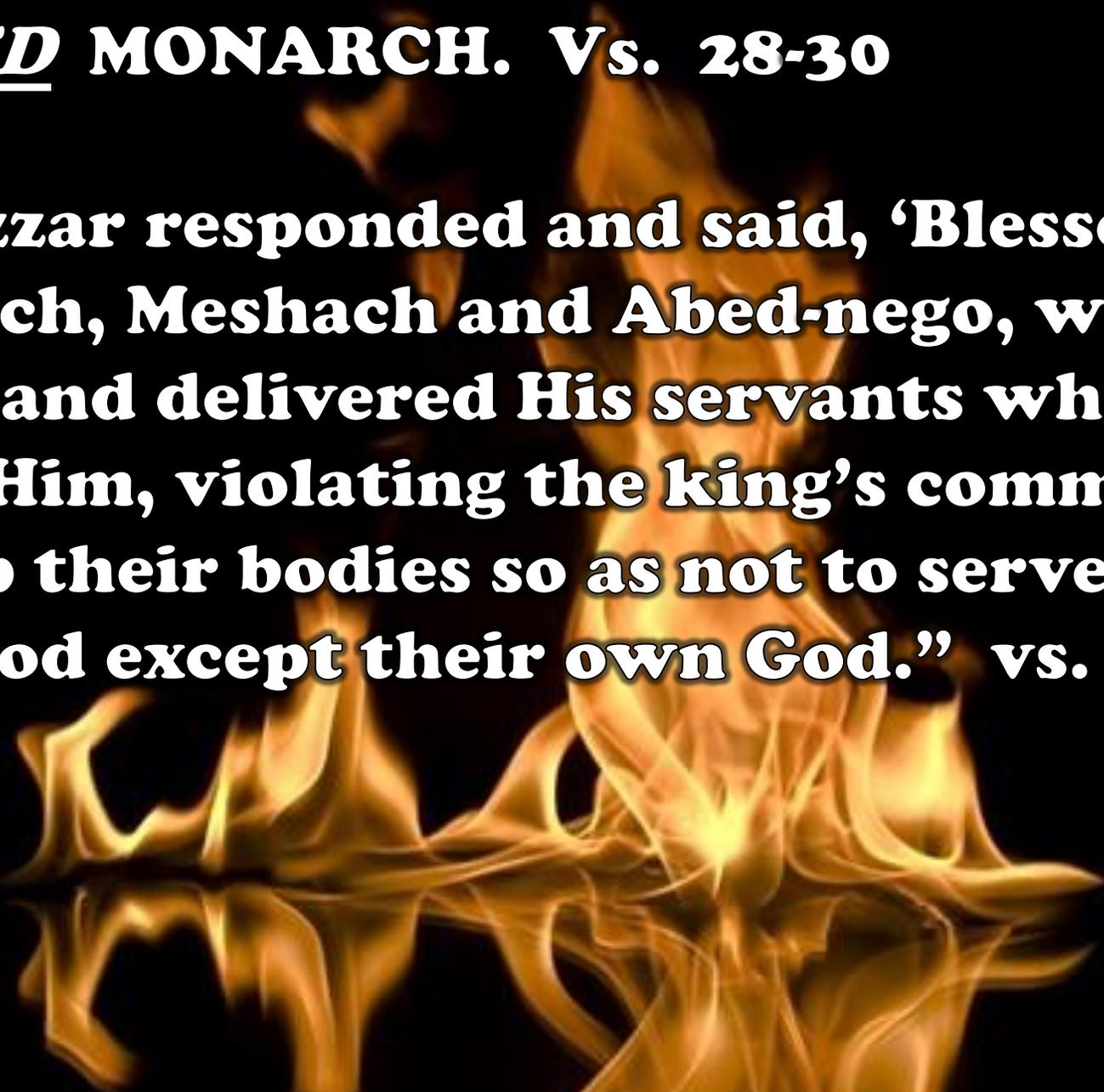
“Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished and stood up in haste; he responded and said to his high officials, ‘Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?’ They answered and said to the king, ‘Certainly, O king.’ He answered and said, ‘Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods!’” vs. 24-25

“Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, ‘Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!’ Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire.” vs. 26

“And the satraps, the prefects the governors and the king’s high officials gathered around and saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them.” vs. 27

3. A CHANGED MONARCH. Vs. 28-30

“Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, ‘Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.’ vs. 28



“Therefore, I make a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.”

vs. 29

“Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon.” vs. 30

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego provide examples for us. Known for their:

A. TRUST.

B. DEFIANCE.

“And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matt. 10:28

“But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, and he who formed you, O Israel, ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!...when you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...’”

Isa. 43:1-3

C. LOYALTY.

“...yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.” vs. 28

“And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.” Rev. 12:11

APPLICATION FOR ME:

A. The Lord will allow each of us to be in the fire at some point.

“In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1:6-7

B. Your trials may not make any sense in this life.

C. God may refuse your request to turn down the heat.

D. Your fiery trail may be one of your greatest gifts.

E. Go forward with the Good News, others are watching.

F. If you have yet to put your trust in the Savior, He suffered for you that you might escape the wrath to come.

IN THE FIRE?

