25 October

2 Chronicles 21|22, Daniel 3, Acts 1

The Fiery Furnace

Jehoram, son of Jehoshaphat married to Ahab's daughter does much evil. He slew all his brethren. He made high places in the mountains and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication and compelled Judah. As a result Elijah rebukes, "Behold, with a great plague will the LORD smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods: And thou shalt have great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day." (2Ch 21:14-15). Ahaziah the son was no better, his mother Ahab's daughter promoted idolatry, therefore, "The destruction of Ahaziah was of God by coming to Joram: for he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab."(2Ch 22:7) Miracles in the face of idolatry.

Nebuchadnezzar makes an image of gold and compels all to worship, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, answered to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king." (Dan 3:16-17) Nebuchadnezzar makes a decree, "That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort. (Dan 3:29). A miracle so truth prevails against idolatry.

The disciples were sent into an idolatrous Roman Empire, but they were to be given the fire of the Holy Spirit. He shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them 40 days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: Being assembled, commanded that they not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence. (Act 1:3-5)