### The Foundation

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

What is the most important thing that you can think of about Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah? Of as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Most would think of Daniel being in the lion's den, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as being in the fiery furnace. But really, that there was another important event that allowed these, nians and wisdom from God. more famous, events to happen. Yes, without it, the lion's faith and trust in him. (Dan.1:9 and 17.)

It would have been easier to conform to the instruc- known that they will stay true to God. tions given by their captors than to draw attention to oneself by choosing a different way. Yet, to serve God means you know the way to go. When you come to an intersecto walk his path and not to blindly follow along with the tion you don't have to stop and figure out the path to go, world. Why do we know of Daniel and his three friends, you already know. The same with believers like Shadrach, but not the names of the other Hebrews in Babylon? The Meshach, and Abednego, or any Christian, when faced course Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah are better known answer is simple - these four feared God more than they with a temptation, we know the right way to go. Trusting did the Babylonians. It was the laws of God that they chose the Lord lays the foundation that helps us to do the right to follow instead of the commands of the king. Obedience thing. This won't happen to the lukewarm person who ofbrought about by faith resulted in Daniel, Shadrach, Mefers a lip-service faith. was this the most important events in their lives? I think shach, and Abednego being given favor by the Babylo-

den and the furnace wouldn't have taken place. I'm referface the persecution of the Babylonians without flinching, ring to a decision, or foundation, on which these other or doubting. In both instances, the furnace and the lion's or obeying God their choice was already made. To serve happenings were built. It took place in Daniel chapter one den, these servants of God knew the dangers, but faced God is not just to say the words, but to do what God has when these four young Hebrew captives decided that they them in faith. In **Daniel 3: 17-18** Shadrach, Meshach, and said to do. **Luke 6:47-48**, "Whosoever cometh to me, and would not defile themselves with the food and drink of Abednego said, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to the Babylonians. They wanted to obey God and to keep able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he whom he is like: 48. He is like a man which built an house, his laws even in a foreign country. Among the many taken will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and captive by the Babylonians we only read of the four who known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon refused to just "go-along" with everyone else. It is easy to nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon see that God blessed them above the rest because of their They're saying that God can deliver them, but they don't a rock." If we have a strong foundation of faith in God and know if he will chose to, or not. Either way they make it are committed to him we will be blessed.

If you chose a destination and know the route then

The faith of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, caused them to face danger, but that same faith and This faith in, and obedience to, God allowed them to obedience to God brought them safely out of the trials. When faced with the choice of compromising their faith,

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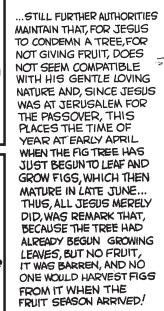
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## JOHN LEHT



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BUT, ALTHOUGH THE TREE WAS IN LEAF, THERE WERE NO FIGS AND JESUS SAID, HEREAFTER, NO MAN WOULD EVER EAT FRUIT FROM THAT TREE! SOME AUTHORITIES SAY JESUS, FOLLOWING THE ORIENTAL CUSTOM OF HOLY MEN, PUT A CURSE ON THE TREE, FROM DISAPPOINTMENT AT NOT FINDING FRUIT. OTHER AUTHORITIES STATE THAT, BECAUSE THE TREE WAS IN LEAF AND THEREFORE SHOULD HAVE HAD FIGS, JESUS WAS POINTING OUT THAT, WHEN ONE OUTWARDLY SHOWS A GOOD CHARACTER WITHOUT THE FRUITS THEREOF, HE IS A HYPOCRITE, OF NO VALUE TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD, BUT...



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