

Series: Messages From the Major Prophets

# THE FURNACE OF AFFLICTION

ISAIAH 48:10

Text: Isaiah 48:10

## **Isaiah 48:10**

<sup>10</sup> *Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in **the furnace of affliction.***

Introduction:

## **1. THE PEOPLE**

So many have the idea that because they are a child of God that they have inoculated themselves from affliction.

However note where it is that it states that the child of God was chosen.

## **2. THE PLACE – THE FURNACE**

When looking for God's people look for them in the furnace.

Examples:

Able – was murdered by his brother because his sacrifice was accepted by God

Noah – was laughed at and considered a fool for building a ship on dry land

Joseph – was sold, imprisoned, and forgotten

Daniel – finds himself in the lion's den

Stephen – was stoned for speaking the truth

John the Baptist – was beheaded for speaking the truth

Paul – was beaten, imprisoned

We not only see the People and the Place but note also:

### **3. THE PURPOSE**

Why is it that God's children allow them to be placed in the furnace of affliction?

Several reasons could be listed but I'll just mention one:

## All Precious Things Must Be Tried

### **Job 23:10**

<sup>10</sup> *But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.*

### **Psalm 66:10**

<sup>10</sup> *For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.*

### **Daniel 12:10**

<sup>10</sup> *Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.*

### **Hebrews 11:17**

<sup>17</sup> *By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,*

### **James 1:12**

<sup>12</sup> *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

### **1 Peter 1:7**

<sup>7</sup> *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

## **Revelation 2:10**

<sup>10</sup> *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

- The Diamond must endure extreme pressure and heat in order to become a diamond
- Gold must be refined to remove the dross and impurities in order to bring a great price.
- Silver must be tried.

In fact most all things that are of any value must endure the fire.

Note not only the Place, People, and the Purpose of the furnace of affliction but also:

## **4. THE PROFIT**

We certainly understand that God allows the trying of His people because of the benefits that results from it.

- One certain benefit is that it purifies us.
- It helps us become more like Christ.

- Another benefit is that makes us more ready to be moldable.

Notice lastly not only the People, Place, Purpose, and Profit but also:

## 5. THE PEACE

Some may say it is one thing to tell us the benefit of the furnace but what comfort or peace results from it?

- The first is the fact that we have been chosen.

God only tries His children.

God tries those He trusts.

A faith that hasn't been tried cannot be trusted.

- Secondly it's in the furnace that we discover the Lord's presences.

### ***Daniel 3:21-25***

*<sup>21</sup> Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. <sup>22</sup>*

*Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. <sup>23</sup> And these three men, Shadrach,*

*Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. <sup>24</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. <sup>25</sup> He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.*

Close:

The furnace of affliction a place you'll find God's people.

A place that purifies, and makes us moldable

A place that we find Him – His presence is precious.

A faith that has been tried can be trusted.

May we allow the Lord to mold us into the vessel He knows will bring that greatest honor to Him.