



**REAL
HEAT**

J.T.C.



AAAAH! I'm burning!



Think he'll make it?



He could go either way, poor kid. But the driver is toast. He didn't stand a chance.

2 months later

You have a visitor, Rick.

Hi, I'm Bob Williams.

Mom told me about you. Sit down and talk to me.

Are you up to talking about the accident?

Are you kidding? I *think* of fire, I *dream* of fire... I can't get it out of my *mind!*

My best friend *burned* to death right next to me! What a *horrible* way to die!

Or be executed!

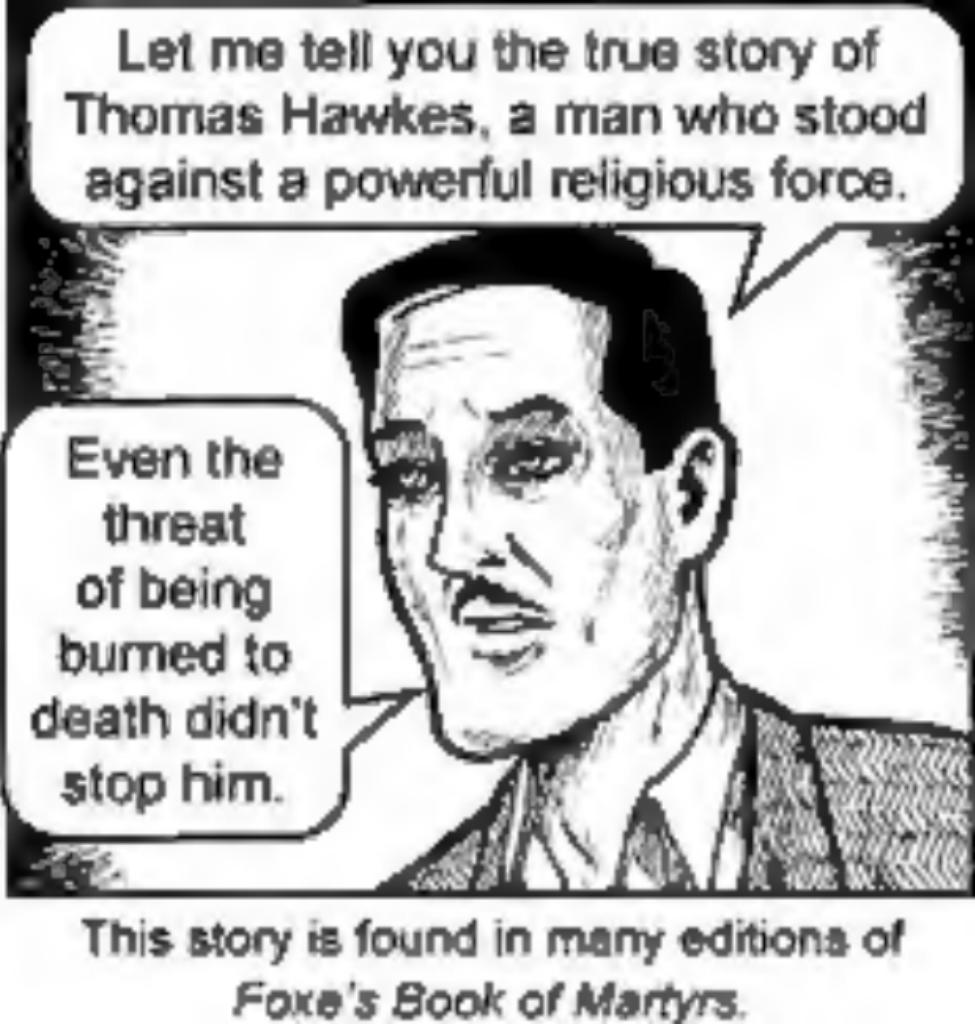
What do you mean?



Throughout history, thousands were put to death that way.

I love history, Bob. Tell me about it. I've got lots of time.

The fear of fire is a terrible weapon to control people...



Let me tell you the true story of Thomas Hawkes, a man who stood against a powerful religious force.

Even the threat of being burned to death didn't stop him.

This story is found in many editions of Foxe's Book of Martyrs.

Thomas Hawkes was a gracious man, loved by all. He believed God's word.



But a new queen took over England, who was known as "Bloody Mary". She was out to get everyone who opposed the teachings of Catholicism.

Hawkes refused to have his baby baptized by a Catholic priest.

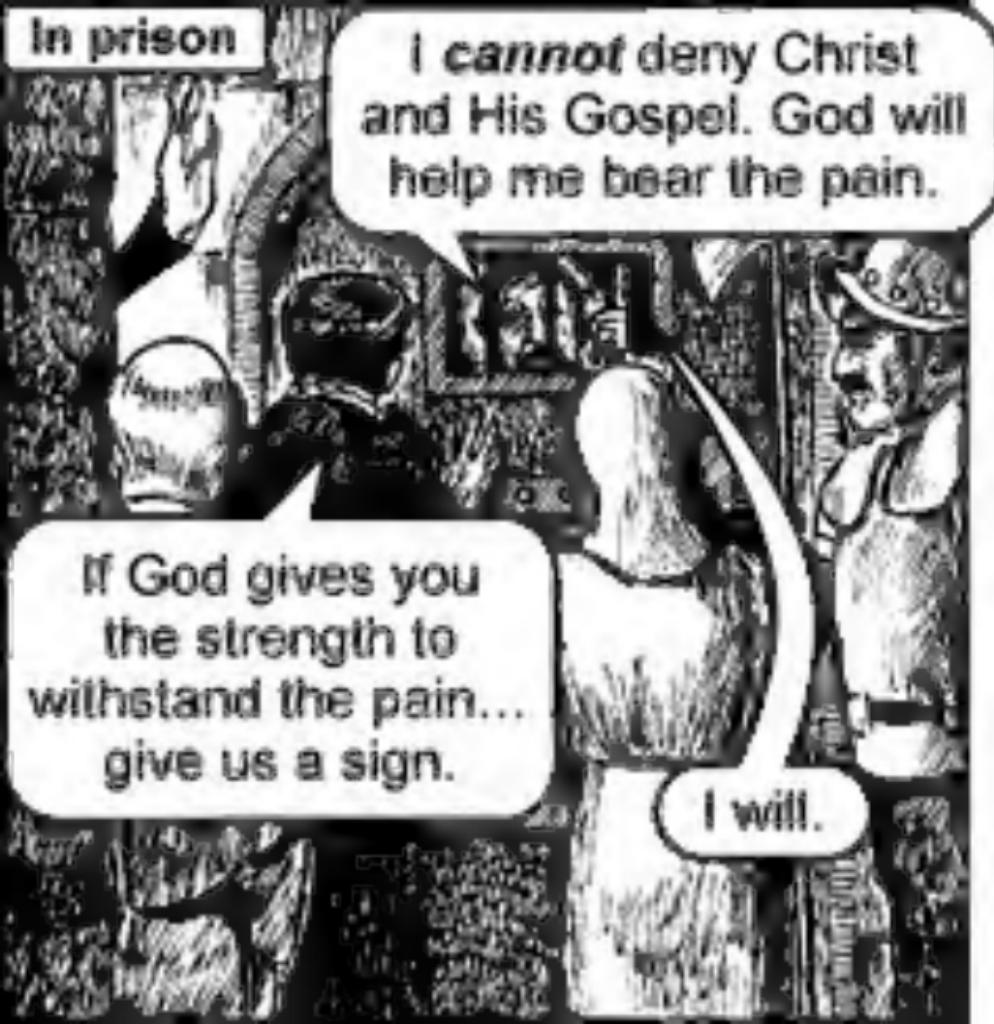
I will *not* have my child baptized by a priest of *Rome*.



Then change your *religion* or be *burnt* at the *stake!*

I cannot change!

In prison



I cannot deny Christ and His Gospel. God will help me bear the pain.

If God gives you the strength to withstand the pain... give us a sign.

I will.

Hawkes told his friends... if the pain was bearable, he would lift up his hands toward heaven as a signal before he died.



The crowd had **no idea** what they were about to witness.

The flames were so fierce he couldn't speak. As his body shrunk down, they thought he was dead... then suddenly...



He lifted his hands over his head
and clapped three times.
God was with him in the flames.



A former Catholic priest said:^{*} "The Inquisition was the *most horrible* engine of cruelty and power the world has ever seen. The Roman Catholic institution, from 1200 A.D. on, produced a total of *68 million victims*."



^{*}See Alberto: Crusader comic, Vol 12.

Their most effective weapon was the fear of being *burned to death*. It was a reign of terror.

Why isn't *that* in our history books?

Can you think of *anyone* who *wouldn't* want that in print?

But it's not **all** negative, Rick. About 2,500 years ago **one** attempted fiery execution backfired.



This story is found in Daniel, Chap. 3.

DON'T LEAVE!
I've got to hear this!

Israel had sinned against God, and they became slaves of Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Babylonian empire.



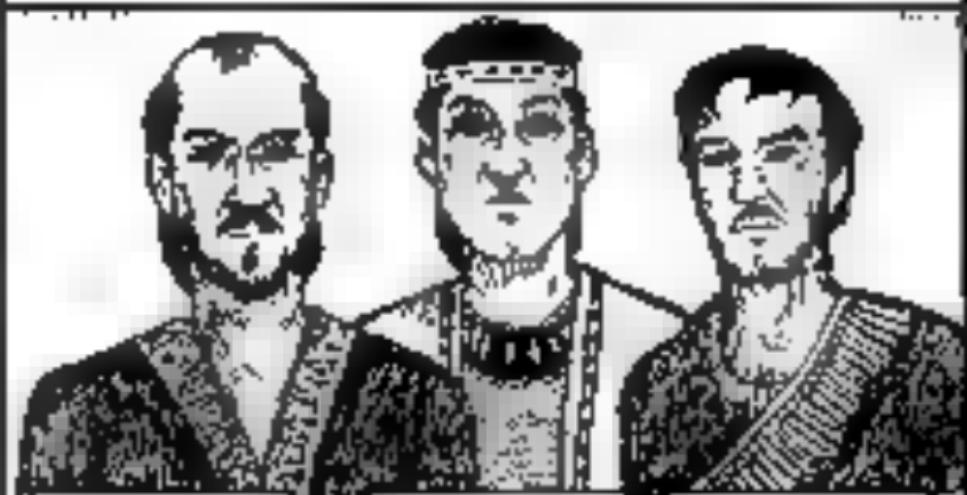
He was the most powerful man alive. Everyone was **terrified** of him.

On the plain of Dura this egomaniac built a golden idol to honor himself



It was over 100 feet tall and 10 feet wide. The king commanded everyone to worship it.

But the Israelites were *forbidden* to worship idols.*



Shadrach

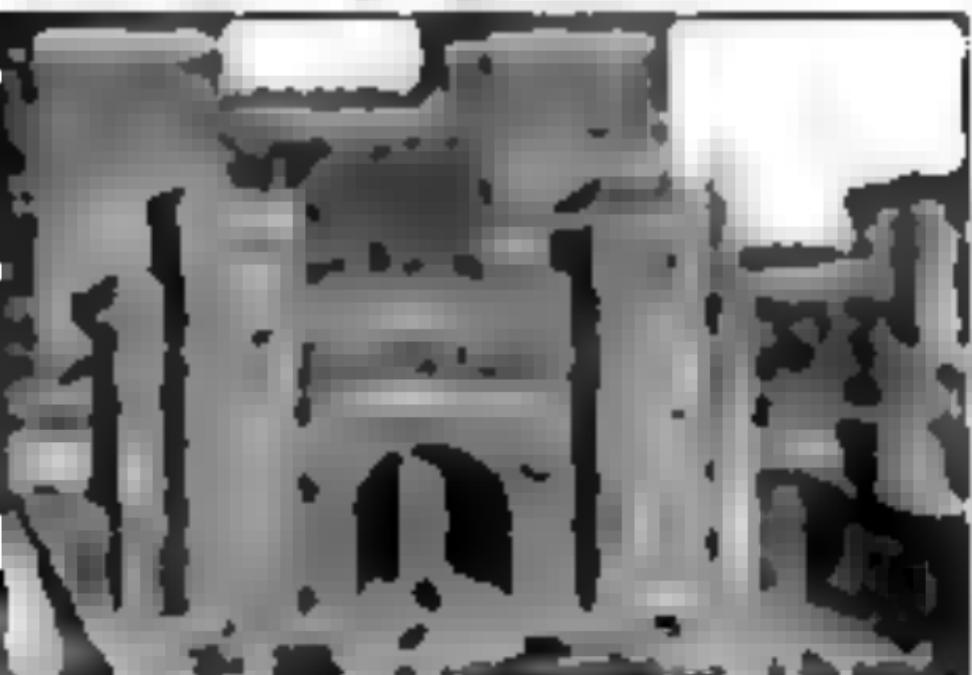
Meshach

Abednego

Three Israelite leaders had to choose: would they obey their wicked king or the living God?

*See Exodus 20:4

the first time I ever
had a real job. I was
so excited about it.



My first job
at the Post Office

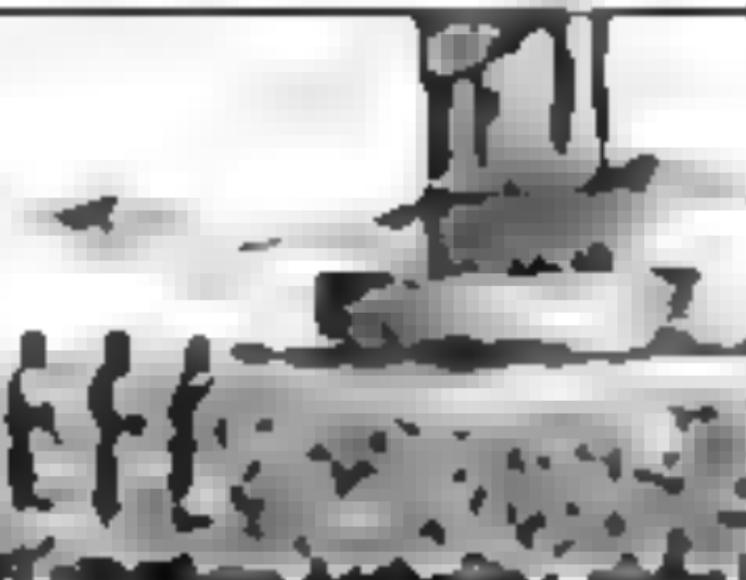


Me and my dad
at the Post Office

other day when I was

driving up the highway and

watched two pickup drivers



go right by them and to see what

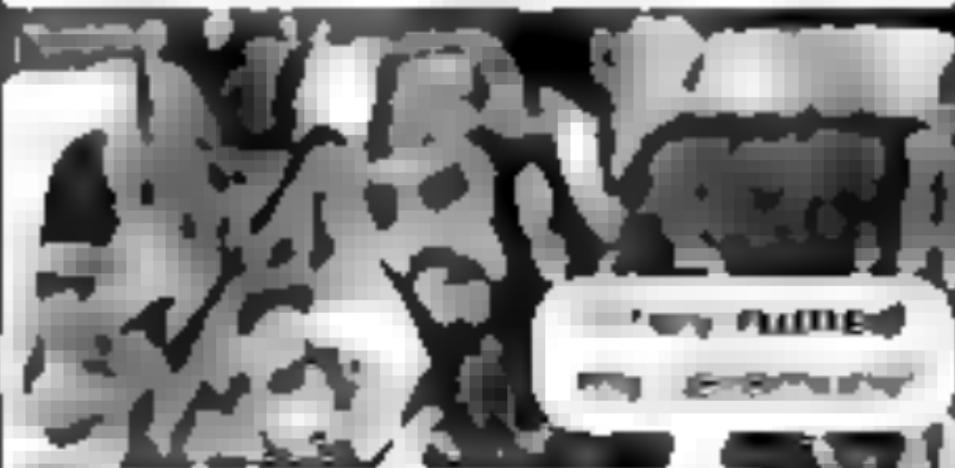
they had stolen? And Americans?

They cleaned up everything!

the day after the robbery

when we were down here to

see what they had done.



Everybody was shocked to

see that the criminals

In his eye he communicated the
idea to the Wright brothers from

I will give you one more chance to obey my command



And who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?"

If not, you go into the furnace

But they answered

Our God whom we serve can deliver us from the fiery furnace and from you, O king



But if not, we still won't serve your gods or worship your golden image

No one ever had the courage to oppose him like that before

Man those guys really had guts didn't they Bob?



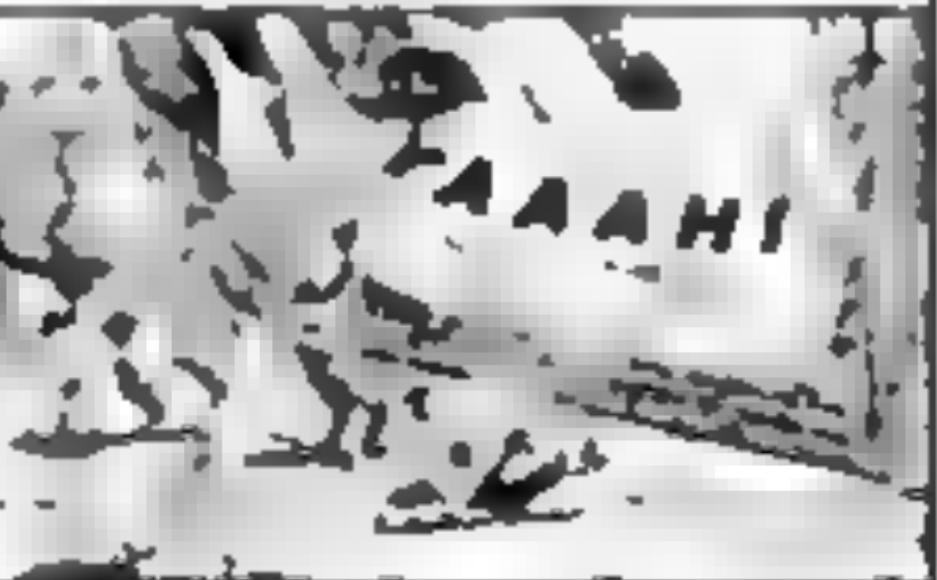
They were men of faith, Rick.
There are not many men like them

In a rage, he ordered the furnace heated 7 times hotter than normal



In his madness he wanted them
burned alive right before his eyes
He believed nothing could save them

The king's soldiers bound the
three men and threw them
into the raging furnace



The heat was so intense the
soldiers burned to death!
But not our three heroes.

The king was amazed. He looked
into the furnace and saw four men!





Now I see 4 men loose walking
in the midst of the fire and
the form of the fourth is
like the Son of God!

When the king ordered them out of
the furnace not even the smell
of fire was on them



Nebuchadnezzar panicked
repented and praised their God.

But who was the fourth man?

Nebuchadnezzar was right - it
really was the Son of God. Rick

Who is the Son of God?

Jesus Christ!

Come on, Bob. Is this
a joke or something?

That happened way
before Jesus time



Rick For there are three that bear record in heaven the Father the Word, and the Holy Ghost and these three are one ^{¶¶}

"The Word" is another name for Jesus
Christ "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" ^{¶¶}

*1 John 5:7 (KJV) Missing in most modern versions.

"John 1:14



Yes He created everything, including heaven and hell



He was with the three men in the fiery furnace

He gave the 10 Commandments to Moses



And He will judge the wicked on doomsday

Jesus came down from heaven and became a man.

If He is God, then why did He let those guys **crucify** Him?

To save your soul,
Rick.

He came to shed His precious blood to wash away our sins.
He was sacrificed for you.



"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

He died, was buried and 3 days later He arose from the dead.

If you believe this, Rick, and receive the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, you will go to heaven.



What if I don't?

You will die in your sins.

All those who escaped Nebuchadnezzar's furnace will be cast into the lake of fire on doomsday. That's *real* heat!



The Bible says, "And smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever." (Rev. 14:11)
And you *will* join them, unless...

I'm terrified, Bob. I'm *afraid* of God... unless *what*?



Unless you ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins and invite Him to become your Lord and Saviour. *Then* you will be saved from going there.

I've got to.



Oh Jesus, save me! Take me to heaven. I *believe* You died for me. I don't want to sin anymore, Lord. *I've had enough fire*. Amen.

"... whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:21

THE BIBLE SAYS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO HEAVEN!

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

NOBODY ELSE CAN SAVE YOU. TRUST JESUS TODAY!

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9

1. Admit you are a sinner. See Romans 3:10
2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent). See Acts 17:30
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried and rose from the dead. See Rom. 10:9-10
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus into your heart to become your personal Saviour. See Rom. 10:13

WHAT TO PRAY

Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His precious blood and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Christ to come into my heart as my personal Saviour.

If you trusted Jesus as your Saviour, you have just begun a wonderful new life with Him. Now:

1. Read your Bible (KJV) every day to get to know Jesus Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Be baptized, worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority.
4. Tell others about Jesus Christ.

Here's help to grow as a new Christian! Read *The Next Step*, available at www.chick.com.

