

***1 Daniel 2-3 The Dream and The Furnace *2 - Map**

***3 Daniel 2** ¹ One night during the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had such disturbing dreams that he couldn't sleep. ² He called in his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers, and he demanded that they tell him what he had dreamed. As they stood before the king, ³ he said, "I have had a dream that deeply troubles me, and I must know what it means."

You can't think of Nebuchadnezzar without thinking of his dreams and God had a specific purpose in those dreams to humble him and teach him who was really in control of this world! **No one is beyond the reach of God, not even the greatest pagan king of all time!**

***4 Daniel 2** ¹⁹ **That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven.** ²⁰ He said, "Praise the name of God forever and ever, for He has all wisdom and power. ²¹ **He controls the course of world events; He removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars.** ²² **He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though He is surrounded by light.** ²³ I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for You have given me wisdom and strength. **You have told me what we asked of You and revealed to us what the king demanded."**

Daniel 2 ²⁶ The king said to Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar), "Is this true? Can you tell me what my dream was and what it means?" ²⁷ Daniel replied, "There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king's secret. ***5** ²⁸ **But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future.** Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed.

God is omniscient; He knows everything, even the future!

***5a Isaiah 46:9-10 NLT** Remember the things I have done in the past. **For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like Me.** ¹⁰ **Only I can tell you the future before it even happens.** Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.

***5b John 16:13 (ESV)** ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come.

Isaiah 42:9 NLT Everything I (the LORD) prophesied has come true, and now I will prophesy again. **I will tell you the future before it happens."**

Isaiah 44:7 TLB **Who else can tell you what is going to happen in the days ahead?** Let them tell you if they can and **prove their power.** Let them do as I have done since ancient times.

Daniel 2 ²⁹ "While Your Majesty was sleeping, you dreamed about coming events. **He who reveals secrets has shown you what is going to happen.** ³⁰ And it is not because I am wiser than anyone else that I know the secret of your dream, but because God wants you to understand what was in your heart.

***6 Daniel 2** ³¹ "In your vision, Your Majesty, you saw standing before you a huge, shining statue of a man. It was a frightening sight. ³² **The head of the statue was made of fine gold. Its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were bronze,** ³³ **its legs were iron, and its feet were a combination of iron and baked clay.**

***7 Daniel 2** ³⁴ As you watched, **a rock was cut from a mountain, but not by human hands. It struck the feet of iron and clay, smashing them to bits.** ³⁵ The whole statue was crushed into small pieces of iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold. Then the wind blew them away without a trace, like chaff on a threshing floor. **But the rock that knocked the statue down became a great mountain that covered the whole earth.**

***8 Daniel 2** ³⁶ "That was the dream. Now we will tell the king what it means. ³⁷ Your Majesty, you are the greatest of kings. The God of heaven has given you sovereignty, power, strength, and honor. ³⁸ He has made you the ruler over all the inhabited world and has put even the wild animals and birds under your control. **You are the head of gold.**

Nebuchadnezzar ruled about 45 years (605-560 B.C.), and his empire only lasted another 21 years. Nebuchadnezzar's father, Nabopolassar, founded the Neo-Babylon Empire in 627 B.C., and it fell to the Persians in 539 B.C. Tom Constable

***9 Daniel 2** ³⁹ "But after your kingdom comes to an end, another kingdom, inferior to yours, will rise to take your place. ("Its chest and arms were silver")

The Medo-Persian Empire led by Cyrus the Great would have been inferior in quality to Babylon from Nebuchadnezzar's viewpoint (cf. 5:28, 31). The Medo-Persian monarchs could not annul a law once it went into effect (cf. 6:8, 12). This restricted the absolute authority of the king. However in some respects this kingdom was superior to Babylonia. For example, it covered a larger geographical territory, and it lasted longer (539-331 B.C.). The arms of the image evidently represented the two nations of Media and Persia that united to defeat Babylon. Tom Constable

***10 Daniel 2** After that kingdom has fallen, yet a third kingdom, represented by bronze, will rise to rule the world. (**"its belly and thighs were bronze"**)

The third kingdom appears to be the Greco-Macedonian kingdom founded by Alexander the Great. Again the symbolism was appropriate. First, bronze was the primary metal in instruments of war, and Alexander's army was noted for its military prowess. Second, what began as a unit (the abdomen) divided itself into two separate parts which were never reunited. This may point to

Syria and Egypt, the two great Hellenistic kingdoms which grew out of the empire of Alexander.
James Smith

***11 Daniel 2** ⁴⁰ Following that kingdom, there will be a fourth one, as strong as iron. ("its legs were iron, and its feet were a combination of iron and baked clay") That kingdom will smash and crush all previous empires, just as iron smashes and crushes everything it strikes.

Rome defeated the last vestige of the Greek Empire in 31 B.C. and ruled for hundreds of years, until A.D. 476 in the West and until A.D. 1453 in the East. The eastern and western parts of this empire crushed all opposition with a brutal strength that surpassed any of its predecessors.

***12 Daniel 2** ⁴¹ The feet and toes you saw were a combination of iron and baked clay, showing that this kingdom will be divided. Like iron mixed with clay, it will have some of the strength of iron. ⁴² But while some parts of it will be as strong as iron, **other parts will be as weak as clay.** ⁴³ This mixture of iron and clay also shows that these kingdoms will try to strengthen themselves **by forming alliances with each other through intermarriage. But they will not hold together, just as iron and clay do not mix.**

The Babylonian Empire stood for 66 years; the Medo-Persian Empire for 208 years; the Grecian Empire for 185 years, and the Roman Empire stood for more than 500 years.

***13 Daniel 2** ⁴⁴ "During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever." ⁴⁵ That is the meaning of the rock cut from the mountain, though not by human hands, that crushed to pieces the statue of iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great God was showing the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its meaning is certain."

***13a John 18:36 (NASB95)** ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

***14 Daniel 2** ⁴⁶ Then **King Nebuchadnezzar threw himself down before Daniel and worshiped him**, and he commanded his people to offer sacrifices and burn sweet incense before him. ⁴⁷ The king said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, YaHWeH over kings, a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this secret."

***15 Daniel 2** ⁴⁸ Then the king appointed Daniel to a high position and gave him many valuable gifts. He made Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon, as well as chief over all his wise men. ⁴⁹ **At Daniel's request, the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be in charge of all the affairs of the province of Babylon, while Daniel remained in the king's court.**

That is a review of events of the past (**There is a twenty-year interval between this chapter and the events in chapter 2.**¹). Notice the humility of Nebuchadnezzar, but now time has passed, battles have been won, kingdoms conquered and the head of gold has returned in triumph to his great city. The pride of life has kicked in and probably a bunch of flattering advisors.

***16 Daniel 3**¹ King Nebuchadnezzar made **a gold "image"** ninety feet tall and nine feet wide and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

***16a** There is a logical connection between the image that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream and the image that he had built on the plain of Dura. Perhaps he got the idea for the statue he built from the statue he saw in his dream. **He forgot, however, the lesson that he had learned about Yahweh's sovereignty.** Evidently thoughts of his position as the head of gold resulted in his becoming proud. We know that this chapter describes events that followed those in chapter 2 because Daniel's three friends had assumed their positions of administrative leadership in Babylon. How much later is unclear though **it seems that several years had elapsed.** Tom Constable²

***17** The statue was of enormous size, (probably an obelisk) some sixty cubits or ninety (90:9) feet high. (10:1 is the same ratio as the Washington Monument 555:55) ***18 Egyptian Obelisk & Unfinished Egyptian Obelisk** Yet the width of the image was but six cubits or nine feet. This would make for a grotesque figure if indeed the statue was in human form. The suggestion has been made that perhaps as much as twenty-four cubits of the height should be assigned to a pedestal. ***19** –The Statue of Liberty is 111' high 151 to top of torch but waist is 35' which is 10:3.3) [**“On the plains of Dura there stands today, a rectilinear mound, about twenty feet high, an exact square of about forty-six feet at the base, resembling the pedestal of a colossal statue.” (Heslop)**] That would make for better proportion. The image was of gold. Most likely gold overlay rather than solid gold is intended. James Smith³

Daniel 3² Then he sent messages to **the high officers, officials, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the provincial officials** to come to the dedication of the image he had set up.

***20** “the satraps (a provincial governor in the ancient Persian empire), the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates” ESV

The satraps were the highest political officials in each province. The prefects (princes) were military chiefs. The governors (captains) were heads of sections of the provinces. The counselors

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Da 3.

² Tom Constable, [*Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible*](#) (Galaxie Software, 2003), Da 2:49.

³ James E. Smith, [*The Major Prophets*](#), Old Testament Survey Series (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1992), Da 3:1–7.

(advisers, judges) were high-ranking judges. The treasurers were superintendents of the treasury. The judges (counselors) were secondary judges, and the magistrates (sheriffs) were lower level legal officials. The rulers (officials) were subordinates of the satraps. Keil

***21 Daniel 3** ³ So all these officials came and stood before the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁴ Then a herald shouted out, "People of all races and nations and languages, listen to the king's command! ⁵ When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments, bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue. ⁶ **Anyone who refuses to obey will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.**"

***22** In this, Nebuchadnezzar was just like many politicians who often seem willing to use religion to strengthen their grip on political power. Politicians are happy to blend together *spiritual* allegiance and *national* allegiance. An example of this was displayed in 1936 when Baldur von Schirach, head of the youth program for Nazi Germany, said: **"If we act as true Germans we act according to the laws of God. Whoever serves Adolf Hitler, the führer, serves Germany, and whoever serves Germany serves God."** David Guzik

"The story of the three young men who were thrown into the fire because they would not worship the image (Dan. 3), brings to mind the great brick-kilns outside the city, where the bricks required for certain purposes in the vast building projects of Nebuchadnezzar were baked. Some of these great ovens were found in the [archaeological] excavations. E. G. Kraeling, *Rand McNally Bible Atlas*, pp. 322–23. See also J. B. Alexander, "New Light on the Fiery Furnace," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 69:4 (December 1950):375-76. Tom Constable

About six miles south of Babylon is a place by this name where archaeologists have found a large brick construction forty-five feet square and twenty feet high. James Smith

***23 Daniel 3** ⁷ So at the sound of the musical instruments, [**"as soon as they were hearing they were falling down."**] all the people, whatever their race or nation or language, bowed to the ground and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁸ But some of the astrologers (**"Chaldeans" – people Daniel had kept from death in Chapter 2!**) went to the king and informed on the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "Long live the king! ¹⁰ You issued a decree requiring all the people to bow down and worship the gold statue when they hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments. ¹¹ That decree also states that those who refuse to obey must be thrown into a blazing furnace.

***24 Daniel 3** ¹² But **there are some Jews**—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—whom you have put in charge of the province of Babylon. They pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up."

These Chaldeans had an obvious political motivation against these Jews who were promoted to high office along with Daniel in the events recorded in the

previous chapter. These men were jealous and selfishly ambitious of God's children who had been promoted over them into positions of leadership!

***24a Daniel 2:48–49 (ESV)** ⁴⁸ Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. ⁴⁹ Daniel made a request of the king, and **he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon.** But Daniel remained at the king's court.

Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah were simply living according to God's law – ³ "You must not have any other god but me. ⁴ "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. ⁵ You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, YaHWeH your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. **Exodus 20:3–5 (NLT)** A decision they had made along with Daniel years earlier!

***25 Romans 12:1–2 Phillips** With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. **Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould**, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.

***25a** "In situations like this, no crime is greater than nonconformity, yet that is exactly what God asks of us when the things of the world are arrayed against the things of God."
Daniel Block

They could have made excuses:

1. We will bow outwardly, but not in our hearts.
2. We will just do this one time and not become idol worshippers – we will ask God's forgiveness.
3. The king has absolute power, given to him by God, God will understand.
4. The king appointed us as high officials we owe this to him.
5. This isn't half as bad as what our ancestors did.
6. We're not hurting anyone
7. If we get ourselves killed who will watch over our people in these high positions?

(Adapted from Life Application Bible)

***26** "This world wants us all to have the same standards – its standards; all accept the same beliefs – its beliefs; all to go to the same places- its places and all so the same things the worlds things. It wants to make us products of the assembly line. When an individual dares to be different, this upsets the

world and it gets angry. We see here the anger of the world against 3 people, unwilling to go along with it.” Jerry Vines

***27 1 John 2:15–17 (NLT)** ¹⁵ Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. ¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

**What about the rest of the thousands of Jews in Babylon – why is the text silent? Did they bow or were they not in the crosshairs of this group of leaders with selfish ambition? And the elephant in the room – where was Daniel?

***28** The absence of reference to Daniel here raises questions. Had he worshiped the image? Was he away on government business, was he occupied with pressing matters, or was he ill and unable to attend the ceremony? Did he enjoy such an exalted position or such favor with the king that these Chaldeans dared not accuse him? The writer did not explain this mystery. It was the response of Daniel’s three Hebrew friends that he wanted to stress. It seems safe to assume that if Daniel had been present he would have responded as his three friends did. Tom Constable

***28a** “God does not test all of His children at the same time or in the same manner.” Campbell

29 Daniel 3** ¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him. When they were brought in, ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar said to them, ***“Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold image I have set up?” ¹⁵ I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. **And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?”**

Many people have their price. Some people compromise their convictions for a very small price. But some people in this world are not for sale. Jerry Vine

Nebuchadnezzar would not tolerate losing face on such an important occasion. His pride made him declare, “You shall have no other gods than me.” **He set himself against the Most High – like Pharaoh but he gets off considerably easier!!

***30 “to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue”** The king distinguished between serving his gods and worshiping his golden image (v. 14). This confirms that the worship of the image was primarily political rather than religious. However failure to worship reflected disbelief in the king’s gods, which was evidence of these Jews’ lack of cooperation in things Babylonian. The king set himself above all gods; none of these gods could deliver the three Hebrews from him. He claimed absolute authority in political and religious realms. Tom Constable

“This historical incident seems to have prophetic significance as well. In the coming Tribulation a Gentile ruler will demand for himself the worship that belongs to God.

***30a 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4 (NASB95)** ³ Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

We have here a picture of events in the last days. Note, first of all, that Daniel was not present when these things took place. This illustrates the rapture of the church: **when the church is out of the world, then Satan will be able to carry out his diabolical plans for enslaving the minds and bodies of men.**

So, Dan. 3 is a prophetic forecast of Israel during the tribulation period (7 years of Daniel), after the church has been raptured. Nebuchadnezzar represents the Antichrist; his image represents the image of Antichrist that he will erect; and the three Hebrews represent the believing Jews, the 144,000 who will be protected during the Tribulation. Warren Wiersbe

***31 Revelation 13:5–8 (NASB95)** ⁵ There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. ⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, *that is*, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. ⁸ **All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.**

***32 Daniel 3** ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. ¹⁸ But even if He doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”

We often complain about our rights and what is fair and unfair. Often it is better to make a stand and endure our difficulty, leaving our fate in God’s hands.

They did not doubt God’s *ability*, but neither did they presume to know God’s *will*. In this they agreed with Job: *Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him (Job 13:15)*. They recognized that God’s plan might be different than their desires. I have my own desires and dreams and I pray that God fulfills them. But if He doesn’t, I can’t turn my back on Him. David Guzik

***32a Acts 4:17–22 (ESV)** ¹⁷ But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” ¹⁸ **So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.** ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, **“Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge,** ²⁰ **for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”** ²¹ And when they had further

threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

***33** Naturally, the three Jewish officers could not follow the king's orders. Romans 13 tells believers to obey rulers and laws, but Acts 5:29 and 4:19 make it clear that no Christian is to disobey the Lord by obeying the government. When the government tries to control our conscience and tell us how to worship, we obey God rather than human beings, regardless of the cost. Warren Wiersbe

***33a** Many fail in their obedience because they wait for something "big" to test their faith before they really start to obey God. Some fill their life with many small compromises; yet tell themselves that they will stand firm when it really matters. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego show us that obedience to God in small things really matters. David Guzik

"The courteous but determined refusal of the Hebrews should be carefully observed. They had obeyed 'the powers that be' as far as conscience permitted. They journeyed to the Plain of Dura. And right at the point where conscience shouted, 'No further!' they rejected the temptation to be arrogant in their non-conformity. **As Daniel before them had been courteous in his request to follow his convictions, so these three verbally acknowledge Nebuchadnezzar as king, while committing their ultimate allegiance to the King of kings alone.** (cf. Acts 5:29; Mat. 22:21.)."

D. Ford

***34 Daniel 3** ¹⁹ Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. ²⁰ Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments. ²² And because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames killed the soldiers as they threw the three men in. ²³ So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, securely tied, fell into the roaring flames.

***35** "His furnace was hot, but he himself got hotter! And when a man gets full of fury, he gets full of folly. There is no fool on earth like a man who has lost his temper. [**Proverbs 25:28 (NASB95)** Like a city that is broken into *and* without walls Is a man who has no control over his spirit.] And Nebuchadnezzar did a stupid thing. He ought to have cooled the furnace seven times *less* if he had wanted to hurt them; but instead of that in his fury he heated it seven times *more*."

G. R. King

"Judging from bas-reliefs, it would seem that Mesopotamian smelting furnaces tended to be like an old-fashioned glass milk-bottle in shape, with a large opening for the insertion of the ore to be smelted and a smaller aperture at ground level for the admission of wood and charcoal to furnish the heat. There must have been two or more smaller holes at this same level to permit the insertion of pipes connected with large bellows, when it was desired to raise the temperature beyond what the flue or chimney would produce. Undoubtedly the furnace itself was fashioned of very thick adobe, resistant to intense heat. The large upper door was probably raised above the level of the

fire bed so that the metal smelted from the ore would spill on the ground in case the crucibles were upset.” Gleason Archer

***36 Daniel 3** ²⁴ But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, “Didn’t we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?” “Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did,” they replied. ²⁵ “Look!” Nebuchadnezzar shouted. “I see four men (Jesus made Himself visible to Nebuchadnezzar!), unbound (selective fire; burned some things and not others!), walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!”

***36a** The Septuagint says in **Daniel 3:24** that Nebuchadnezzar’s attention was caught when he heard the men singing praises in the furnace. If this is truly what happened, we can imagine that the king had them cast into the furnace and didn’t intend to look twice, believing they would be immediately consumed. As he walked away with a satisfied look on his face, he was immediately stopped by the sound of *singing* coming from the furnace. David Guzik

***37** The king probably meant that this fourth person appeared to be super-human or divine from his viewpoint as a pagan polytheist. **Evidently the fourth person was either an angel or the Angel of the Lord, the preincarnate Christ (cf. Gen. 16:13; et al.). He was with them in their affliction and protected them from harm in it (cf. Exod. 3:12; Ps. 23:4–5; Isa. 7:14; 43:1–3; Matt. 28:20). He did not deliver them from the fire but in it (Rom. 8:37).** Tom Constable

***37a** We don’t know if Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego *knew* that the **Son of God** was with them in their fiery trial. Sometimes we are aware of Jesus’ presence in our trials and sometimes we are not – but He is there nonetheless. David Guzik **Are you in a furnace in your life right now? We experience all kinds of furnaces. Just remember, though you may not be aware of it Jesus is with you and it going to save you though this trial!**

****Before Jesus returns, we Christians may have to go through the “furnace of fire,” but we need not fear, for He is with us. And far better to go through a furnace of fire than to live in a lake of fire for all eternity.** Warren Wiersbe

***38 Daniel 3** ²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of **the Most High God**, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire. ²⁷ Then the high officers, officials, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn’t even smell of smoke!

***38a** “Just as the reign of Nebuchadnezzar is symbolic of the entire period of the times of the Gentiles, so the deliverance of Daniel’s three companions is typical of the deliverance of Israel during the (“Tribulation”) period of Gentile domination. Particularly at the end of the Gentile period Israel will be in fiery affliction, but as Isaiah prophesied: ***39** ¹ “But now, thus says YahWeH, 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! ² “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the

fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you. Isaiah 43:1–2 (NASB95)” John Valvoord

***40 Zechariah 13:8–9 (NASB95)** ⁸ “It will come about in all the land,” Declares the LORD, “That two parts in it will be cut off *and* perish; But the third will be left in it. ⁹ **“And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested.** They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ And they will say, ‘YaHWeH is my God.’”

Many who will not worship the Antichrist will be severely punished; some will be martyred for their faithfulness to Jesus Christ. But a few will be delivered from those persecutions by the Lord Jesus Christ at His second coming [Rev. 12:10–17]. David Guzik

***40a Daniel 3** ²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent His angel to rescue His servants who trusted in Him. They defied the king’s command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

Most of the people in the world, including many in Israel, will submit to and worship him. But a small remnant in Israel, like the three in Daniel’s day, will refuse. David Guzik

***41 Daniel 3** ²⁹ Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. There is no other god who can rescue like this!” ³⁰ **Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.**

There is sometimes a promotion after the furnace – things get much better than before – your faith is built up; you are stronger; others recognize your God and want to know Him!