

Daniel 3 –26 June 2025

“Burning To Shine His Glory”

Introduction

*Book’s Theme: “God’s power to bring Israel thru the kingdoms of this world to exaltation”

*Book’s Outline: 2 halves (historical chronology chap 1-6 & a is more detailed prophetic visions chap 7-12)

*Chap 1 – Believer in an unbelieving world

*Chap 2 – All world empires ended by the Kingdom

*Chap 3 – Believer raptured while Israel goes thru the Tribulation

*Chap 4 – King of Babylon as Satan is bound

*Chap 5 – Earth’s ruler gathers for a last battle but is overthrow

*Chap 6 – New world-ruling kingdom w/ unchanging laws is established

*Dan 3 gives us a classic example of living real faith!

*Heb 11:6 tells us *w/o faith it’s impossible to please God* – He rewards those that live for Him by faith

Today, we’ll see the actions of 3 distinct parties during a real test of faith

#1 – We’ll see the Cowering of the Coerced Crowd (Vs 1-7)

Read Vs 1

1. Seems this is in direct rebellion to the dream Nebu had in chap 2 just a short time before
 - a. That had a head of gold for Babylon & further kingdoms after Babylon w/ other metals
 - b. This is completely of gold symbolizing Nebu believes his reign will never end

Read Vs 2-3

1. Calling all the micro-leaders shows this is intended to be a loyalty test
 - a. This foreshadows the Anit-Christ requiring his mark to buy or sell as a loyalty test to him
2. Remember, in chap 2 Daniel was promoted to prefect w/ the 3 others, yet he’s not listed as here
 - a. His absence is 100% mysterious, on purpose
 - b. Daniel is a picture of rapture before the Trib

Read Vs 4-6

1. Death by fire seems to be Nebu preferred death penalty b/c this is also recorded in Jer 29:22

2. So this loyalty test isn't just limited to politics; this also asks for your religious loyalty
 - a. Now, we can offer allegiance to our country thru the flag, & this doesn't bleed over to our religious allegiance
3. We obey our political rulers until we're asked to disobey God – *that* is a time to stand!

Read Vs 7

1. Would we follow the crowd all around us?
2. Look at the circumstances
 - a. It was beautiful with music and fanfare
 - b. Nearly all your friends around are doing it
 - c. Your life is literally on the line
3. How many in this crowd made excuses?
 - a. “I'm not really worshipping; I'm just going along to get alone”
 - b. “The good Lord knows my heart”
4. What we often fail to remember is that when situations are forced on us, these are the chances to return the greatest glory to God
 - a. We just saw this in chapter 1

#2 – We’ll see the Flex of the Faithful Few (Vs 8-18)

Read Vs 8-12

1. These Chaldeans seem motivated by jealousy from chap 2 & a lust to maintain their power
2. As for the 3 Jews; notice how they acted
 - a. They didn’t cop out & worship the image
 - b. They also didn’t publicly protest & make demand
 - c. They simply obeyed God w/ abstinence from evil & took it no further

Read Vs 13-15

1. It’s good practice to ask questions & get the details & don’t just assume we know the facts
 - a. Read Prov 18:13 – Don’t answer before you hear it
2. *What god is there who can save from me?*
 - a. As a prototype of the Anti-Christ to come, Nebu sees himself, not just as a man, but as the greatest god

- b. Can't Nebu remember what Daniel's God just did in chap 2?
- c. Pride will give you willful amnesia

Read Vs 16-18

1. Notice 3 things about their answer
 - a. It an unambiguously clear stand for Christ
 - b. It gives glory to God's ability, not their own
 - c. It isn't presumptuous of God's plan & will
2. What's the difference - David knew he would take out Goliath & these 3 men didn't know?
 - a. David had God's revealed will; God already said that the land was theirs & not for others
 - b. These 3 men only had the general will of God, not to serve anything but God, they didn't have God's specific will for how to do it
3. Faith is not in action when we can see the rope bridge ahead
 - a. But faith will act even when it can only feel the strands of rope or simply only the hear the strong call of God from the other side

#3 – We'll see the Guarantee of the Glorious God (Vs 19-29)

Read Vs 19-23

1. These details say the 3 men were completely at the mercy of God – they had no earthly chance
2. THESE are times God can get the most glory
3. I believe they were remembering Isaiah's words at this time Read Isa 43:2

Read Vs 24-25

1. There is tradition that Nebu's attention was caught b/c he heard singing in the fire
 - a. Reminds us of Paul & Silas in jail
2. True worshippers know that when they have nothing on earth, they still have intimacy w/ God
3. There is nowhere we can go, or be sent, that the Lord cannot meet us there & meet our needs there
4. And when we're found in a trial by fire, whether by the devil or by man, we can know there's a sovereign God controlling it all

5. Notice they were *in* their circumstance yet didn't have to live *under* their circumstance – b/c God was with them
6. And they're not even interested in leaving!
 - a. They're just walking, enjoying God's glory

Read Vs 26-27

1. Everyone saw the glory of God, why?
 - a. B/c these men had enough faith to stand for God in the first place
2. This is complete deliverance, not even a smell
3. We've the same promise (Read John 16:33)

Read Vs 28

1. How did Nebu know that they trusted in God?
 - a. B/c they put their faith into action
2. People know what you believe by your actions
 - a. What are you showing them?

Read Vs 29-30

1. God brought prosperity to the 3 men b/c of their trust in Him

2. The ways of God lead to prosperity, even if you can't see how it could possibly come to pass
3. So what is the guarantee when we act in faith?
 - a. Peace w/ God (Read Rom 5:1)
 - b. Joy unspeakable (Read I Pet 1:8)
 - c. Eternal life (Read John 3:16)
 - d. These 3 men had it all

Conclusion

How do we act when 'the heat is on'? When chances, small and large arise to shine our faith in God...

1. **Are we cowering like the coerced crowd?**
2. **Or do we flex like the faithful few**
3. **Have we experienced the guarantee of our glorious God? – You will when you act in faith!**

We have a great chance to shine brightly as the world around us gets darker and darker

Are we willing to endure the struggle to shine for Jesus Christ – He's worth it!