



Go for God!

The Book of DANIEL

Chapter 3

“How To Endure Fiery Trials!”

> FOUR FAITH POINTS FOR A FIERY TRIAL:

~ FAITH POINT #1 – (v1-7) BEWARE OF FALSE FAITH!

~ FAITH POINT #2 - (v8-18) FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH!

~ FAITH POINT #3 – (v19-25) FAITH IN CHRIST OVERCOMES THE FIRE!

~ FAITH POINT #4 - (v26-30) VICTORY THROUGH FAITH!

~ FAITH POINT #1 – (v1-7) BEWARE OF FALSE FAITH!

> Image Worship Instituted (Idolatry):

- Past Image: Material: *All gold*

Physical Description: *Appearance as a man*

Height: *90 feet by 9 feet*

Babylon- *“Confusion” by mixing*

Plain of Dura- *“Habitation” (6 miles from the city of*

Babylon)

Political Movement- *All branches of government (notice financial & judicial)*

Religious Movement- *Music- “call to worship”*

Crime against the State- *Failure to worship - punishable by*

death

- Present Images: (v6) C.I. Scofield writes, “Here is a case of enforced state religion, involving the worship of a man-made image. This phenomenon, appearing at the beginning of the times of the Gentiles and continuing from time to time through history (e.g. Roman emperor worship, Japanese Shinto shrines, and Soviet veneration of Lenin, Communist adoration of Mao Se Tung, and exaltation of Adolph Hitler), will reappear at the end of the age when, not only the dragon, but the beast and the image of the beast also will be worshipped under compulsion (Rev. 13:4-15; 14:9-11; 20:4 cp. 2Th. 2:4). There will be increasing stress upon worship at the end of the age, but it will be satanically directed.

- Future Image: Revelation Ch. 13:11-18 - *Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the*

beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

~ FAITH POINT #2 - (v8-18) FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH!

- Three Hebrews / three keys:

Key #1- They would not pay due regard to human exaltation.

Key #2- They would not serve other gods.

Key #3- They would not worship foreign gods.

"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" - Romans 10:17

- This scripture gave the three Hebrews OBEDIENCE in this time of trial - Exodus 20:3-6- You shall have no other gods before Me. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

(v17-18) Faith on fire! – These three Hebrews did not have this scripture, but they were living it out to the fullest degree (temperature that is), Romans 12:1-2 - *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

(Sidenote: This is symbolic of the Jewish remnant that will survive the great tribulation of the last days (Isa. 1:9; Is. 9:6-7; Rom. 11:5; Ps. 2:5; Rev 7:14).)

- What about believers in these last days? Jesus gives us in Mark 13:9-13 - "But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be

hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved."

~ FAITH POINT #3 – (v19-25) FAITH IN CHRIST OVERCOMES THE FIRE!

- **Christ gives us His PEACE** - John 16:33- *"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

- **Jesus is WITH us!** - Matthew 28:20- *"and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

- **The fire cannot PREVAIL against Christians!** - Matthew 16:13-19 - *When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

- **How to SURVIVE the fiery trials? (5 steps):**

(1) Matthew 4:10 (**Worship and serve God!**);

(2) James 1:2-8 (**Count it all joy!**);

(3) 1 Peter 1:3-9 (**Love Jesus!**);

(4) Ephesians 6:10-20 (**Armor up!**)

(5) Revelation 3:7-13 (**Keep His Word and do not deny His name!**)

~ FAITH POINT #4 - (v26-30) VICTORY THROUGH FAITH!

- Paul writes in 2 Timothy 4:6-8- *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

- **We must have ROCK SOLID FAITH in the last days!** – Paul declares truth in Romans 8:31-39 - *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at*

the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.