

The Book of DANIEL

Chapter 3

“How To Endure Fiery Trials?”

> FOUR FAITH POINTS FOR A FIERY TRIAL:

#1 – BEWARE OF FALSE FAITH! (v1-7)

> Image Worship Instituted

- 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

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

> Three keys: #1- They did not pay due regard to human exaltation.

#2- They did not serve other gods.

#3- They would not worship foreign gods.

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

Maybe this scripture gave the three Hebrews courage in this time of trial - Ex 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!** 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).

#3 – FAITH IN CHRIST ENDURES THE FIRE! (v19-25)

- **Christ will give 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* - Matt 28:20- *“and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

- **How to SURVIVE the fiery trials? (4 keys)** - (1) Matthew 4:10 (**Worship and serve**); (2) James 1:2-8 (**Count it all joy!**); (3) 1 Peter 1:3-9 (**Love Jesus!**); (4) Rev. 3:7-13 (**Keep His Word and don’t deny His name!**)

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

Paul writes in 2 Tim 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.*