

## God's Design in the Hebrew Scriptures: Daniel

### Chapter 3 — A Lesson In Loyalty And Divine Provision

#### I. The delusion of earthly glory. 1–7

Many commentators see parallels between the false image of Dan 3 and the false image of the Antichrist in Rev 13, each with a command to worship the image, each with the pain of death for not worshipping, and in each the people of God are finally delivered and exalted.

#### II. The accusation of earthly ego, 8–12

#### III. The inquisition of earthly justice, 13–18

#### IV. The sentence of earthly justice, 19–23

"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, "Daniel," p. 56.

#### V. The deliverance of divine provision, 24–27

#### VI. The declaration of divine power, 28-30

The greatest example of loyalty in The Word of God is not Hananiah, Mishael, or Azariah, it's Jesus, the very Son of God. In the face of death itself He said, "Not My will but Yours be done." And, Jesus received "death" by this choice! God's deliverance, even through His death, was greater than anyone could imagine! He gave His life, He not only gained His life, He gained Life for any and all who put their faith in Him!

As the Lord of Life, Jesus tells us who want to walk with Him through The Times of the Gentiles, through fiery trials, through persecution and pain, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age"!

#### The Times of the Gentiles

##### God's program for the world chs. 2–7

Daniel wrote 2:4b–7:28 in the Aramaic language. This literary change gives the reader a clue that this part is a distinct section of the book. The content of this section also identifies it as special. It concerns the future history of the Gentiles during "the times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24). Aramaic was the common language of the world in which Daniel lived when he wrote. It is natural that he would have recorded what concerns the world as a whole in the language of the Gentiles.

The writer constructed this section of the book in chiasmic form.

- A** A prophecy of an image concerning four Gentile nations and their end ch. 2
- B** The supernatural persecution and deliverance of Daniel's three friends ch. 3
- C** God's revelation to the Gentile king Nebuchadnezzar ch. 4
- C'** God's revelation to the Gentile king Belshazzar ch. 5
- B'** The supernatural persecution and deliverance of Daniel ch. 6
- A'** A prophecy of animals concerning four Gentile nations and their end ch. 7

"Chapters 2 and 7 explain the succession of four Gentile empires that would exert control over Jerusalem and the Jews until God's kingdom is established. Chapters 3 and 6 warned the Jews of the persecution they would face during this period and exhorted them to remain faithful to God. Chapters 4 and 5 encouraged the Jewish remnant by reminding them that a time would come when even the Gentile rulers would acknowledge that the God of Israel rules over the nations."

Tom Constable, Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible (Galaxie Software, 2003; 2003), Dan 1:21.