

THE PROPHETIC WORD TODAY

Daniel: Hot Lessons

Text: Daniel 3

A blacksmith desired to “get” the preacher. He invited him to inspect a horseshoe (just out of the fire.) The preacher picked it up and dropped it instantly. “Little warm?” asked the blacksmith with a gleam in his eyes. “Naw, it just doesn’t take long to see a horseshoe.” It takes a little longer for some of the hot lessons from Dan. 3.

Intro:

Dream of Chapter 2 – Daniel and friends
Chapter 3 begins – Daniel is apparently gone.

From dream to image: 60 cubits tall, 6 cubits wide. Gold, solid or wood covered.

Kings proclamation

Jealousy of leaders

Exam of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego

Their stand – not arrogant or rude (Rom. 13). Willing to suffer for doing right (Acts 5:29 and 4:19).

Thrown in the furnace – 4 in the furnace

Emerge – not singed, not smoky.

3 lessons

I. THE PRACTICAL

A. Promise of persecution

1 Pet. 4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

B. Promise of preservations

1. In the furnace

2. Steven – preserved though not spared

Acts 7:54-60 ⁵⁴ When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with *their* teeth. ⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, ⁵⁶ and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; ⁵⁸ and they cast *him* out of the city and stoned *him*. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on *God* and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he

knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

C. Promise of promotion

1 Cor. 2:9 But as it is written: "*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*"

II. THE DOCTRINAL

A. Babylon

1. **Gen. 11 – Babel – Nimrod (rebel against Lord)**
2. **Prophets – Babylon, capital of Babylonian - Chaldean Empire**
3. **Revelation – Babylon, the great harlot**

- a. **Babel – “gate to God”** – man’s gate “Broad is they way, wide is the gate that leads to destruction”
- b. **Babylon – “gate of Bel”** Bel was the chief of the Babylonian gods, like Zeus to the Greeks

In each case it is man’s attempt to become divine through his own universal system. One government, one religion – to reach the ultimate – to become God.

Centers of 2 things: gold and man

4. **The city of Babylon is being rebuilt** as prophesied in Isa., Jer., Ezek., and Rev.
 - a. Started under Sadam Hussein – the new Nebuchadnezzar
 - b. Continues today to promote tourism in new Iraq
 - c. Pres. Obama donated \$700,000 of our tax dollars 2 years ago toward the rebuilding
 - d. Already those in the world who want to build a new Babylon as (and this is taken as a quote from their own website)

“Working together, an idea can come to fruition and we can create the ideal utopia of hedonism – Babylon....

A place where everyone makes their own rules... and

Adultery, licentiousness, debauchery, sexual appetites and all manner of immoral conduct can be divulged in.”

While the future city of Babylon is still under reconstruction, its philosophy is already well rooted and growing. It is the philosophy of humanism.

Humanism (not humanitarianism)

- **Man is the center of the universe.**
- **Everything can be evaluated according to man's relative good.**
- **Nothing is absolute.**
- There is no God.

B. As did faithful Shadrach, Meshak, and Abed-nego, believers are to stand against this system.

1. **Recognize it.**
2. **Oppose it.**

III. THE PROPHETIC

This chapter gives us a prophetic picture of the last days. One wonders if these events would have occurred if Daniel had been present, but he was not.

Likewise in the last days...

A. Daniel represents the church.

1. **The church with the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit will be taken out – RAPTURE**

2 Thess. 2:2-7 ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way.

2. **Nebuchadnezzar represents the antichrist.**
 - a. **World ruler**
 - b. **Totalitarian government**
 - c. **Set up his own image and fierce worship**
 - d. **Image of Nebuchadnezzar – 60 cubits x 6 cubits x 6 instruments = 666**
3. **Three Hebrew children represent 144,000 Jerusalem saved and sealed who proclaim the gospel and will not bow to the image. Satan has no power over them and they pass through the fiery tribulation unscathed.**

We move rapidly toward that point.

Are you prepared, are you ready, and are you on Christ's narrow road?

Are you ready to suffer for Jesus' sake when called upon?