

Daniel – Series Two
The Fiery Furnace
Chapter Three
Lesson IX
June 3,2009

Daniel chapter two , although containing history, is *primarily* a chapter of prophecy in symbols. **Daniel chapter three** is a chapter of history but an example of history being typical prophecy.

A study of the Bible without a recognition of its typology is to miss much precious truth.
A study of the Bible without due consideration of the prophetic content is also to be robbed of much precious truth.

I So before looking at this chapter consider the following points as to the importance of the Study of Bible Prophecy.

1. A major portion of the Bible when written was written as prophecy.
2 Timothy 4:2 we are to preach the Word, *all of it*.
2 Timothy 3:16 *all* being inspired of God is important just because it is there.

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
2 Timothy 4:2

All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
2 Timothy 3:16

2. The message of prophecy stimulates our hope
Titus 2:13 our blessed hope
John 14:1-3 the pledge of His coming is the fact of His going

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
Titus 2:13

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.
John 14:1-3

3. Prophecy stimulates a desire to live for Christ

1 John 3:3 hath this hope purifies himself

2 Peter 3:11-18 looking for , look for, look for

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

1 John 3:3

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

2 Peter 3:11-18

4. Prophecy arouses missionary zeal

1 Corinthians 15:58 therefore, in the light of what has gone before

1 Thessalonians 2:19,20 Psalm 126: 5-6

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy.

1 Thessalonians 2:19,20

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

Psalm 126:5-6

5. Prophecy comforts, encourages the heart

1 Thessalonians 4:18 comfort one another with these words

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11 comfort yourselves together

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:18

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

6. The purpose of prophecy is to teach us to believe
John 14:29 when it is come to pass ye might believe

And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.
John 14:29

- 7 For 4000 years God has been interpreting prophecy by fulfilling it. According to the pattern of the past, if there is unfulfilled prophecy in the Bible we have a right to expect that it shall have the same kind of fulfillment, even though we may not now understand how that is possible.

II The Historical Facts in Daniel Chapter Three

1. Daniel 3:1 Nebuchadnezzar makes an image of gold: 60x6 cubits or 90 feet high, 6 feet wide.

Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height *was* threescore cubits, *and* the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:1

It would be like a prairie grain elevator that could be seen from a great distance. Being covered with gold it would shine in the sunlight. Daniel 4:37 Proverbs 6:16,17

Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works *are* truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Daniel 4:37

These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Proverbs 6:16,17

In Daniel 4:37 we learn that he built it because of pride.

Proverbs 6:16,17 Pride is at the top of the list of things God hates because pride exalts self.

Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works *are* truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Daniel 4:37

These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Proverbs 6:16,17

Page 3 of 9

C.H. MacIntosh (1820-1896) wrote the following before the so-called self-esteem doctrine became popular.

“Self – importance is a noxious weed nowhere to be found in the entire range of the New Creation. It is, alas! Often found in the ways of those who profess to belong to the blessed and holy creation, but it is not of heavenly growth. It is of fallen nature - a weed that grows luxuriantly in the soil of this world. There is nothing more foreign to the thoughts of God, the mind of heaven, the spirit of Jesus, than self-importance and self-occupation. And on the other hand there is nothing that savours so of God, of heaven, and of Jesus, than self-surrender”.

The spirit of pride is opposed to the Spirit of Christ.

Philippians 2:5-8 humbled himself

Matthew 11:29 meek and lowly

“When walking in the Spirit enjoying the new life in Christ Jesus – no longer desiring self-exaltation or self-pleasing, the bribe has ceased to appeal. Its presence must only cause pain to the heart that has fallen in love with humility. Grace allures and charms with the vision of eternal things.” C.I. Scofield

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:5-8

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 11:29

2. Daniel 3:2-3 The king commands all the Leaders to come to the dedication of the image (note the number of times the word “image” is here)

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Daniel 3:2-3

Has there ever been, since that time, a gathering together of so many Leaders of a country to any event? Jeremiah 27:6-7

And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him. And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.

Jeremiah 27:6-7

Jeremiah 27:6-7 God calls Nebuchadnezzar his servant. He also says “all nations” would serve the King.

Here again we see a manifestation of the King’s pride. His pride demands Hero worship

Galatians 6:3 when a man thinks himself to be something when he is nothing

Acts 12:21-23 Herod is another example

James 4:6,10 grace is given to the humble—humble yourselves

Proverbs 16:18 pride will surely bring a downfall.

For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

Galatians 6:3

And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, *saying*, *It is* the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

Acts 12:21-23

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

James 4:6,10

Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 16:18

3. Daniel 3:4-7 There are two major subjects here.

First, the refusal to worship this image was to result in sure death in a fiery furnace. History is filled with this kind of deeds at the hands of dictators.

Second, the celebration was accompanied by all kinds of music. It reminds me of some of the pagan African and pagan Native celebrations.

Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, *That* at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down *and* worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.
Daniel 3:4-7

4. Daniel 3:8-12 Certain Jews are accused.

Note the word “Jews” in both verses 8, and 12.

Perhaps the cause of resentment is in verse 12 “Jews whom thou has set over the affairs...”

Proverbs 27:4 who can stand against envy? Human nature has not changed.

Verse 8 Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews. They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever. Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image: And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, *that* he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. **Verse 12** There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Daniel 3:8-12

Wrath *is* cruel, and anger *is* outrageous; but who *is* able to stand before envy?

Proverbs 27:4

5. Daniel 3:13-15 Nebuchadnezzar was in a rage. Why?

Then Nebuchadnezzar in *his* rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, *Is it* true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; *well*: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who *is* that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

Daniel 3:13-15

You do not serve *my* gods.

You do not worship the image *I* have set up.

Who is the God who shall deliver you out of *my* hands?

Touch a man’s pride and he will stand up inside. Pride always looks down on others.

6. Daniel 3:16-18 The answer of faith

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we *are* not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Daniel 3:16-18

Your threat does not trouble or upset us. God whom we serve is able to deliver us.(faith) BUT IF NOT we will not serve thy gods. (Greater faith)

Job 13:15 though He slay me yet will I trust in Him

Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

Job 13:15

7. Daniel 3:19-27 The three Hebrews were preserved in the fire.

Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: *therefore* he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that *were* in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, *and* to cast *them* into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their *other* garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, *and* spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, *and* spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come *hither*. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire. And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

Daniel 3:19-27

Of course this was a miracle. If you are going to believe the Bible you must believe that “with God nothing is impossible”

Genesis 18:14 is anything too hard for the Lord?
Luke 1:37 nothing is impossible.

Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.
Genesis 18:14

For with God nothing shall be impossible.
Luke 1:37

8. Daniel 3:28-29 The Gentile King is forced to acknowledge that the God of the Jews is the true God. Yet the king's heart is not really changed by all of this.

Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed *be* the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.
Daniel 3:28-29

9. Daniel 3:30 Once again the Jews are promoted.

Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.
Daniel 3:30

As the end the second chapter of Daniel so ends the third chapter of the book.
And if one carefully reads the Old Testament books of the Prophets one will discover that each ends with good news for the Jews.

Conclude

Hosea 14:1-5, Joel 3:20-21, Amos 9:13-15, Obadiah 18:1-4, Micah 7:19-20, Zephaniah 3:20, Zechariah 14:21

O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive *us* graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips. Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, *Ye are* our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy. I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him. I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

Hosea 14:1-5

Page 8 of 9

But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. For I will cleanse their blood *that* I have not cleansed: for the LORD dwelleth in Zion.

Joel 3:20-21

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.

Amos 9:13-15

And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be *any* remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken *it*. And *they of* the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and *they of* the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin *shall possess* Gilead. And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel *shall possess* that of the Canaanites, *even* unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which *is* in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south. And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S.

Obadiah 18:1-4

He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, *and* the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

Micah 7:19-20

At that time will I bring you *again*, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.

Zephaniah 3:20

Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and see the therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 14:21