

Daniel Chapter 3

The topic for this program is the third chapter of that great Old Testament prophet, Daniel. The third chapter of Daniel is an End Times chapter. That means it refers to the times we are living in today. Because it is an End Times chapter, it makes great use of the two main features of apocalyptic literature.

First of all, numerology is very important. The numbers 4, 7, 12, 28 and 5 5 5 and 6 6 6 are End Times numbers, most of which are included in this third chapter of Daniel. The second characteristic of End Times hermeneutics is that the symbolic meaning takes precedence over the literal meaning. We will also see that in this third chapter of Daniel.

Let's look at the chapter three of Daniel, verse by verse. Before we start, I should mention that we are going to find the same three groups who are saved from the Antichrist as Daniel mentions in chapter 11, except in chapter 11 they are called Edom, Moab and Ammon. And in chapter 12, Daniel adds a fourth group. These four groups that will reign in the Millennium are the raptured Protestants, protected Catholics and the Holy Martyrs.

In verse number 1, Daniel writes that King Nebuchadnezzar made a huge statue of himself, which was 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide. Right off the bat, we see a 6 6 numerology, which indicates the Antichrist and King Nebuchadnezzar is a prefiguring of the Antichrist. In verse number 2, we see that King Nebuchadnezzar calls together seven groups of leaders in his country; princes, governors, captains, judges, treasurers, counsellors and rulers. Notice there are seven groups of leaders mentioned and he mentions them twice, both here in the second verse and in the third verse.

Let's look at verse number 4. 'Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded that you worship the statue of King Nebuchadnezzar'. This herald, who says that everyone must worship the statue of the king, prefigures the False Prophet who will require the same allegiance from all of us in the End Times to the Antichrist.

This herald continues: 'when you hear the sound of seven different instruments, that's when you must worship the great statue of King Nebuchadnezzar'. These instruments are the trumpet, the flute, the harp, the sackbut, which is probably an earlier version of the trombone, the psaltery, which is probably a zither, the dulcimer which probably more known correctly

as a bagpipe and various types of instruments, which is the seventh group of instruments.

Notice again, there are seven kinds of instruments here. These seven instruments are mentioned 4 times. Of course both 4 and 7 are End Times numbers, as is a multiple of 4 and 7 which is 28. You will notice in this chapter that the word 'king' is mentioned 12 times. The phrase 'Nebuchadnezzar the King' is mentioned 12 times and 'Nebuchadnezzar', without a king attached to his name, is mentioned 4 times. Again 12 plus 12 plus 4 equals 28.

Next we read in verses 17 and 18, that the three children of Judah, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to worship the golden statue of King Nebuchadnezzar. They are a prefigure of the Protestants, Catholics and Jews who will be saved during the Great Tribulation. King Nebuchadnezzar is furious that these three children of Judah refuse to worship the golden state, which he had set up. Therefore he orders them to be cast into the fiery furnace, which he has heated seven times hotter than normal. This 'seven times hotter than normal' refers to the Great Tribulation.

Remember in the book of Revelation that Jesus is the one who opens the seven seals. In other words the seven years of Great Tribulation which we are about to enter into, is allowed by God Almighty. This is a great temptation for all of us. And why does God allow this? Because those of us who pass through this Great Tribulation period will be worthy to enter into the great reward which is the Millennium, the thousand year reign of peace.

Notice that when Nebuchadnezzar heats the furnace seven times hotter, that is the seventh seven. Remember the seven types of rulers were mentioned twice, and the seven instruments were mentioned four times. So now the furnace is heated seven times hotter, thus the seven sevens. Multiples of End Time numbers equal other End Time numbers. 4 times 7 = 28, an End Times number, 7 times 7 = 49, another End Times number, and 12 times 12 = 144, a third End Times number.

Now, in the fiery furnace, King Nebuchadnezzar sees a fourth individual, walking amidst the flames along with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He says that this fourth individual looks like the Son of Man. Some Bible scholars believe this is Jesus; others believe this is an angel. Either way, this represents a spiritual individual, someone without a body. And thus, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and a person walking in the flames, who was in the spirit, represent the four groups who will reign with Christ during the Millennium. The Catholics, Protestants and Jews, who are converted, they

will reign bodily. The fourth group, the Holy Martyrs, are resurrected at the third coming of Christ, and they join the other three groups, but they are in the spirit, just as the speaker in the furnace is in the spirit.

But just how do Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego signify the three groups who will survive the Antichrist? In order to find out, we have to look at their original Hebrew names. Shadrach's original Hebrew name was Ananias, which means God is gracious. He therefore represents the raptured Protestants, who receive a tremendous grace from God to escape the Tribulation.

The name Abednego was originally Azarias in Hebrew, which means, 'the Lord helps'. He prefigures the remnant Catholics who flee into the desert with Mary and are protected under two wings of a great eagle. That refers to what is helping them from the Lord. The two wings of the eagle, the eagle represents the power of God, as we found out back in Exodus and in these End Times, the two wings symbolize the rosary and the scapular.

Meshach's original name in Hebrew is Misael, which means 'who is what God is'. That is a theological concept and refers to conversion and therefore to the converted Jews, the third group who will bodily survive the great seven years of Tribulation period. And, as I said, the fourth group, the Holy Martyrs are represented by the Son of Man who King Nebuchadnezzar sees in the fiery furnace, walking along with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Thus we see that chapter 3, continues the same as chapter 11 and chapter 12 in Daniel: all three chapters refer to those four groups who will reign with Christ during the Millennium, the raptured Protestants, the protected Catholics, the Holy Martyrs and the converted Jews. Again let's pray that you and I will be graced to belong to one of those four groups, the four groups who will not take the Mark of the Beast, the four groups who will go through the seven years of insanity which we will know as the Great Tribulation and which is prefigured in chapter 3 of Daniel, as a fiery furnace.