

The Book of Daniel
"The Great Tribulation Furnace"
Daniel 3:1-30

Introduction

1. History has its significant overtones and these are often full of prophetic situations.

2. The account of Jewish suffering in Daniel 3 is an Old Testament picture of the coming fearful sorrow to which this people will be subjected.

Special Note

The Bible predicts a period of tribulation upon the face of the earth which will be such as has never been experienced. Mark these characterizations of the period:

- a. Time of great trouble. Dan, 12:1.
- b. Time of Israel's trouble. Jer. 30:7.
- c. Time of great judgement. Rev. 6-19.

3. The present chapter of Daniel lists within the historical story of the three Jewish brethren, several details which will obtain in the coming Tribulation Period. See them now in preview!

1. The TRIBULATION will include idolatry.

The colossal image constructed in this chapter is indicative of another image yet to rise in Palestine during the final days of Gentile rule. No one can faithfully read Rev. 13 without assenting to this. How the worship of that which is outside the one and true living God is rising today!

2. The TRIBULATION will include treachery.

Nebuchadnezzar who so recently had given the Jews places of prestige is found in this chapter turning against them. So it will be in the days of the Great Tribulation. Cf. Dan. 9:27. Feigned love for the Jews has always been despicable to God, cf. Gen. 12:1-3.

3. The TRIBULATION will include ministry.

The Jews in Daniel 3 gave a forthright witness in the midst of suffering. Indeed, in the fire, their witness was more potent than that given outside the fire. It moved the king himself to a decision! The day is coming when Jewish mouths will proclaim Christ with vigor and results, cf. Isa. 66:19.

4. The TRIBULATION will include victory.

It hardly seems possible as one reads the story that the Jews could have been spared, but they were. The blessed old Book promises that the Jews will be spared and given a glorious victory in the hour of their greatest sorrow. Cf. Rom. 11:25,26; Rev. 19:11 cf.

5. The TIBULATION will include delivery.

The Jews who endured the suffering of the king's furnace were promoted to a high and exalted position. Furthermore, their God became the object of concern for all the people. Out of the coming Tribulation will come many Jews who will be rewarded for their commitment to Him. Cf. Rev. 7:14.

6. The TRIBULATION will NOT include the church.

There is only one slight mention in this chapter which suggests this: Dan. 3:8. The N.T. develops this fully and shows that the church (Body of Christ) will be raptured (taken up to Christ's presence) before God again starts to deal with the Jews Cf. Rev. 3:10. There could never be an "any moment" rapture which would take the believer thru the Tribulation. Why? Because the Tribulation would serve as a harbinger of the rapture and this would destroy the Biblical picture of the rapture.

Conclusion What does all this teach us? Surely, it instructs us concerning the vital events yet to come. It helps us to see clearly what is going to take place in this world. Without making specific predictions, we are certain of the broad highway of prophecy. Seeing these things coming, how everyone ought to be ready for the rapture! Are you?

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