

service. Chapter 2 tells how Daniel tells the king of the vision. And what is the big central thought of the vision? The big central thought of the vision surely is that great world powers that oppose God will eventually be destroyed. A stone cut without hands will hit the image, and break it to pieces, and will fill the whole earth. That is the thought of chapter 2, isn't it? Nebu. is a great king, a powerful ruler, but God is still more powerful. God is going to be supreme over Nebu. and all such rulers in the end. Now in ch.3, you have Nebu making a solemn command which requires idolatry, and you have three men refusing to obey him, and God giving these 3 men the wonderful men the wonderful victory, and making Nebu. admit God's greatness again. In the face of persecution, in the face of difficulty, for keeping God's law, God is protecting, and blessing his own. Dr. Robert Dick Wilson used to say, one of the verses he like best in ch. 3 in Daniel. It is a verse that I think in a way is one of the finest verses of the whole Bible. It is found in ch.3, v.18. In vv16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego say they will not bow down to this idolatry. In v.17 they say, "If it be our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thy hand O king," but here's what Dr. Wilson liked, v.18. "But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, or worship the golden image which thou has set up." In other words, but, if not, if God doesn't deliver us, we still will not disobey God. You see, the thought of the passage is not, no matter what you do, if you are following God he will protect you from physical trouble. It is not that. It is that sometimes God greatly blesses those ~~from~~ <sup>with</sup> delivering them from physical death, who follow him. It is that we should follow him, no matter what the result is. But it is that regardless of result, we still should follow him because He is greater than Nebu., and more powerful than all the forces of the earth.....end of D 1

D-2 Now, in chapter 4 we have Nebu. proudly declaring his greatness. Nobody is as great as he is. And then God strikes him with madness, and tells him to go and live among the beast of the earth, for a time, and then restores him to his kingdom when Nebu. confesses the greatness of God. Again God's supremacy