

God knows what is going to happen, and in the end, God is going to destroy all the great world empires, and bring everything into His control. That, in brief, is what is taught in ch.2, and like ch.1, is tremendously important for God's people in time of persecution. Then in ch.3 we find that the people are faced with actual persecution if they disobey God's commands. An image is set up, they are told to worship the image. Daniel's three friends disobey. We are not told what Daniel did here. As a result they are cast into a fiery furnace, but God delivers them out. The great verse in this chapter is ~~xxxv.17-18~~ vv.17-18, where they say to Nebu, Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace. They don't say, "and he will deliver us from the fiery furnace," but they say, "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 ~~god~~ god, nor worship the golden image which thou has set up. God can deliver them from the king by sparing them the death in the fiery furnace, or by taking them home to heaven. But if He does not choose to spare them from the fiery furnace, they still will not obey the king's command. They are not just arbitrarily disobeying the king. They are standing by the Word of God, and what encouragement it is in the midst of persecution to know that God blesses His people when He chooses, as He did in this case. Then in ch.4 we find the greatest monarch of all, Nebu., the head of gold, that he is forced to admit that God is greater than he, and recognizes God's supremacy, because God reduced him to nothing, and then restored him. In ch.5, we have one of his successors, Belshazzar, who defies God, and God makes a prediction that Belshazzar will be destroyed, and he is destroyed. Another proof that tho human powers may be great, God is greater, and God will perform what He chooses. Another great assurance for persecution in time when there is little visible sign of God, an assurance that actually behind the scenes, God's power is the most vital thing, and then in ch.6 we have Darius the Mede who ...end of D 13

D 14

.....and the enemies of Daniel working a clever scheme whereby getting Daniel into unjust punishment. And that is a thing you may expect in life. It is