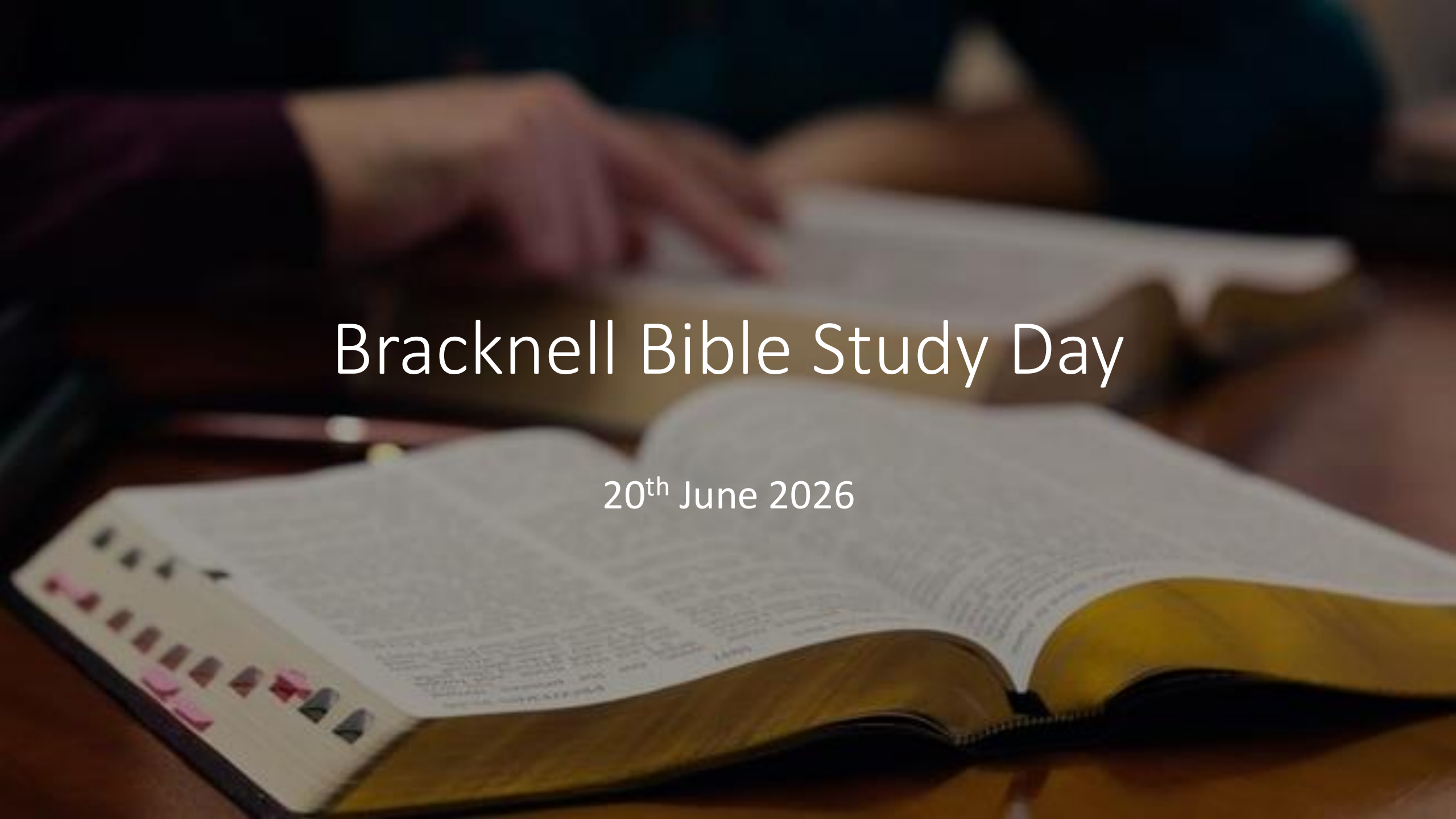


A photograph of a person's hands pointing at a Bible on a table. In the foreground, an open Bible is visible, showing text on its pages. The background is slightly blurred, showing the person's hands and the Bible they are pointing at. The overall scene suggests a Bible study or teaching session.

Bracknell Bible Study Day

20th June 2026

I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,
Nor to defend His cause;
Maintain the honour of His word,
The glory of His cross.

*At the cross, at the cross,
Where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away;
It was there, by faith, I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day.*

Jesus, my God, I know His name,
His name is all my trust;
Nor will He put my soul to shame,
Nor let my hope be lost.

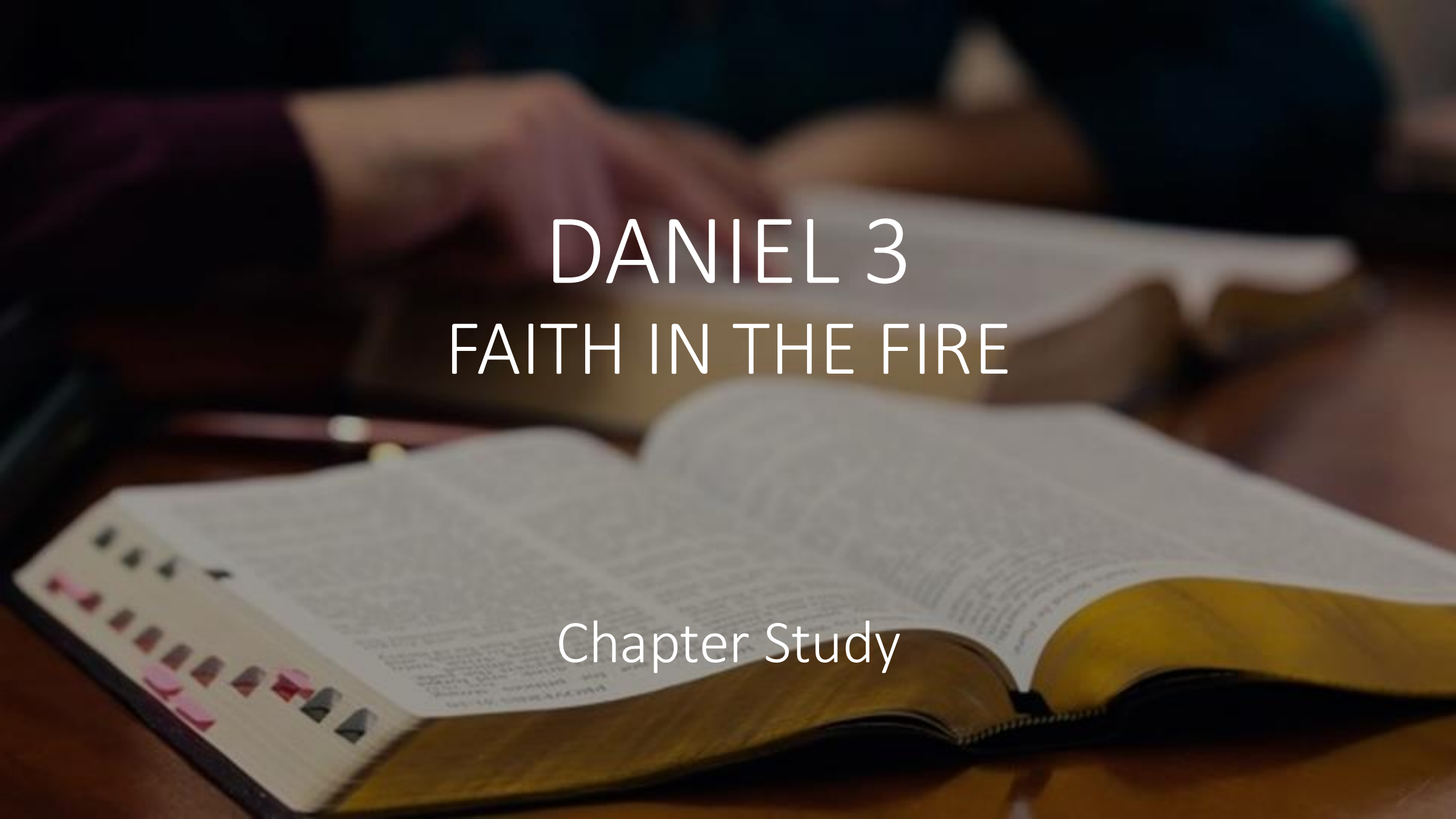
*At the cross, at the cross,
Where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away;
It was there, by faith, I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day.*

Firm as His throne His promise stands,
And He can well secure
What I've committed to His hands
'Til the decisive hour.

*At the cross, at the cross,
Where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away;
It was there, by faith, I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day.*

Then will He own my worthless name
Before His Father's face;
And in the new Jerusalem
Appoint my soul a place.

*At the cross, at the cross,
Where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away;
It was there, by faith, I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day.*



DANIEL 3

FAITH IN THE FIRE

Chapter Study



Where to begin - READ

Read the book

Read it again

Read the chapter

Read the chapter before

Read the next chapter



ALWAYS ASK: WHAT IS THE CONTEXT?

CONTEXT

Chapter 1: Establishing Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah as 'better than all'

Chapter 2: Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of the vision of the great image, charting the reign of four empires...until the coming of Christ (a stone cut out without hands)

Chapter 4: The humiliation of Nebuchadnezzar and his 'confession of faith'

ALWAYS ASK: WHAT IS THE CONTEXT?

CONTEXT

Chapter 1:1-2:3 Hebrew

Chapter 2:4-7:28 Chaldean/Syriack/Aramaic

Chapter 8-12 Hebrew

Contrast God's dealing with His people, with 'the times of the Gentiles' *Luke 21:24*

CONTEXT

Chapter 2 deals with the prophetic period called by the Lord Jesus, “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21: 24). It commences with the “head of gold” (v38), and concludes with the “stone cut without hands” (v44), which describes the millennial kingdom of Christ. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar, “Thou art this head of gold”... Chapters 2-7 can be called the ‘Gentile Section’ of the book. This begins and ends with prophecies regarding Gentile nations.

Chapter 3 focuses attention on the aspirations of Nebuchadnezzar, the “head of gold”, and deals with the character of the “times of the Gentiles.” We can look at Chapter 3 in four ways: historically, governmentally (how rulers use their power), prophetically, and practically. *JM Riddle, Bible Class notes*

CHARACTERS 1:3-7

INTERESTING TO EXPLORE NAMES

JEWISH NAMES

Hananiah – Graciously given of Jehovah

Mishael – who is like God

Azariah – Jehovah has helped

[Daniel – God is my Judge]

BABYLONIAN NAMES *Gaebelein*

Shadrach – Rak, the Sun God

Meshach – a goddess like Venus

Abednego – servant of Nego

[Belteshazzar – Bel's prince 4:8]

GIVEN NEW NAMES BY BABYLON THAT ARE TO DO WITH IDOLS BUT THEY
ARE TRUE TO THEIR GOD-GIVEN NAMES THAT SPEAK WELL OF HIM

OUTLINING A PASSAGE IS ALWAYS HELPFUL

OUTLINE – CHAPTER 3

- v1-7 A Command *Who are they listening to?*
- v8-12 An Accusation *What does the world do?*
- v13-15 An Ultimatum *How does they world respond?*
- v16-18 A Response *How do they respond?*
- v19-23 A Judgement *What is the world's final assessment?*
- v24-30 A Vindication *What is God's final assessment?*

ASK SOME QUESTIONS

ALWAYS ASK LOTS OF QUESTIONS

What is the story of the text? This is an amazing story
How did these characters feel? There must have been many emotions
What do I learn about the world? The passage is full of idolatry and evil
What do I learn about believers? It is possible to stand apart
What does it teach me about God? He is able to and will deliver his own
What light does the New Testament bring? Find NT equivalent lessons
What lessons are there for me today? Courage; Conviction; Commitment
What lessons are there for the future? God will always vindicate his people

A COMMAND

v1-7

Who are they listening to?

v1 A distortion of God's word in ch.2 – not just a gold head – all gold

v1 Extremes – 90 feet high, 9 feet wide (almost 30m x 3m) – almost as high as Big Ben's tower in the plain of Dura

v2-3 Influencers are out in force (repeated)

v4-6 A call to idolatrous worship

v5 Note the influence of music here (sensual) – be careful – repeated four times!

v7 As one (almost), they fall to worship (repeated v4,7,29)

APPLY:

OUR WORLD DEMANDS ALLEGIANCE TO ALL MANNER OF EVIL AND IDOLATROUS THINGS THAT ARE A DISTORTION OF GOD'S WORD – MEN FOLLOW WITH HARDLY A THOUGHT

A COMMAND

v1-7

Who are they listening to?

Leviticus 26:1

Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

A COMMAND

v1-7

Who are they listening to?

Through a NT lens

Colossians 3:5-7

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.



AN ACCUSATION

v8-12

What does the world do?

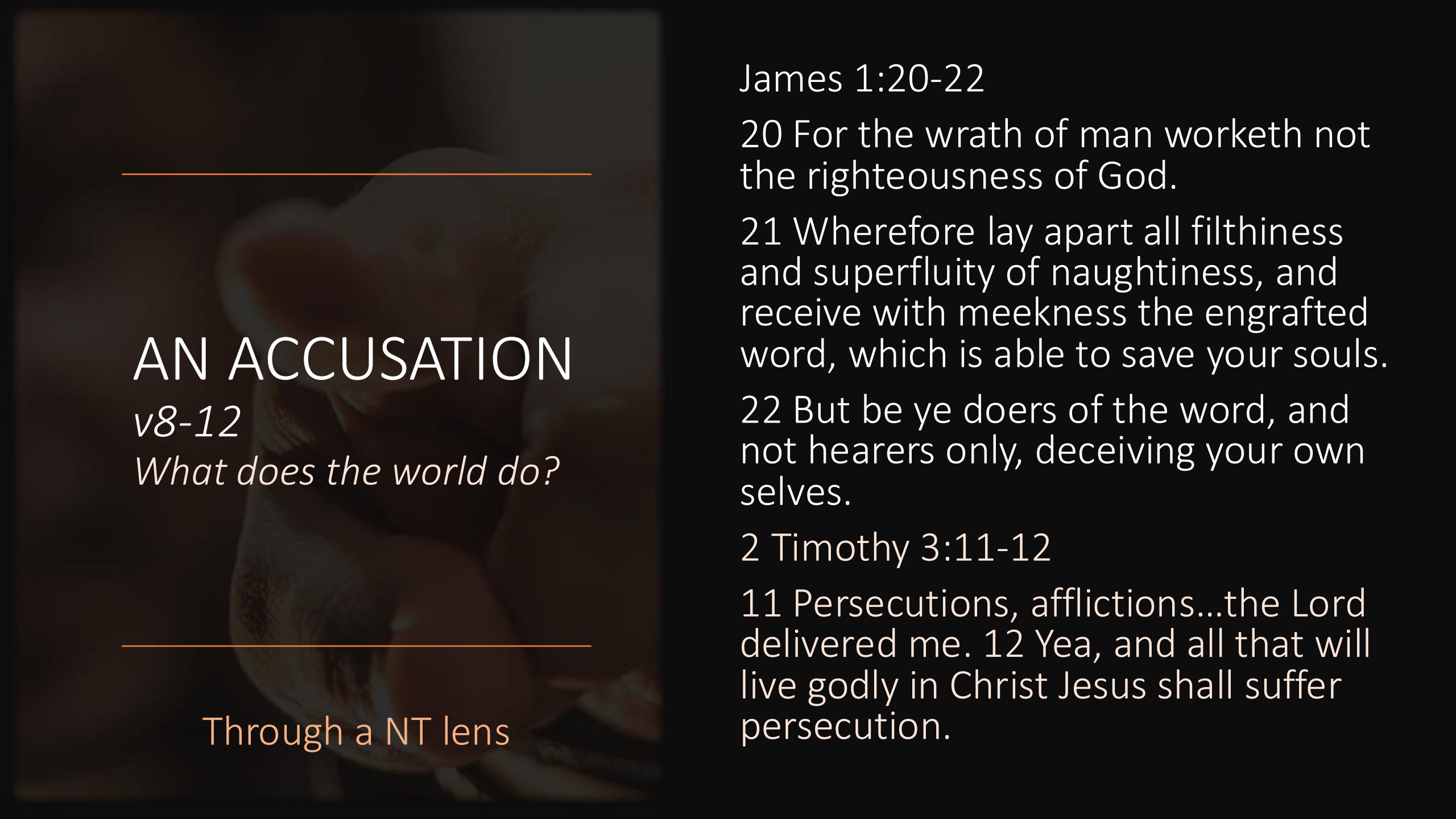
v8 Where the world is given to excess, accusation against the people of God is not far behind

v9-11 The logic of the world is seen for all its absurdity

v12 Where the people of God are prepared to take a stand, they will face accusation

APPLY:

WHEN OUR WORLD GOES TO EXCESS IN ENTERTAINMENT, IDOLATRY AND ALL MANNER OF EVIL, ARE WE PREPARED TO BE DIFFERENT, WHATEVER THE COST?



AN ACCUSATION

v8-12

What does the world do?

Through a NT lens

James 1:20-22

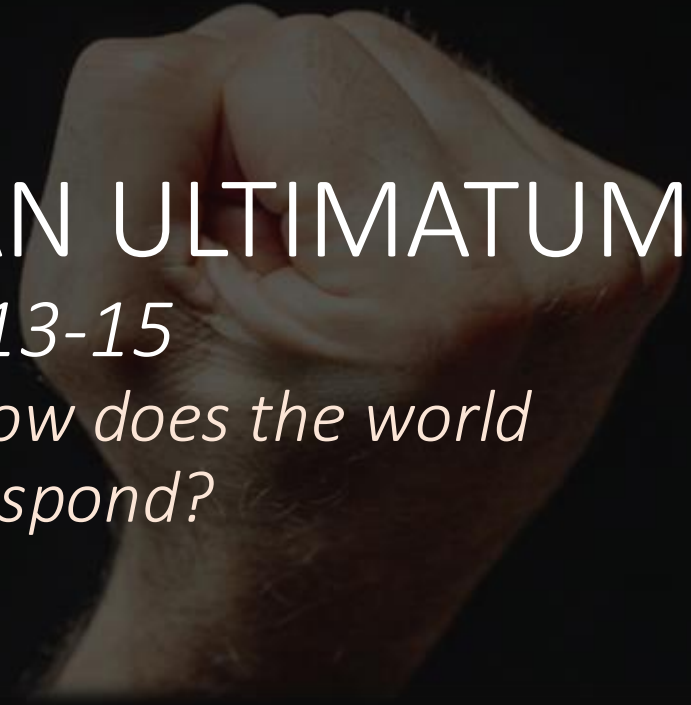
20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

2 Timothy 3:11-12

11 Persecutions, afflictions...the Lord delivered me. 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.



AN ULTIMATUM

v13-15

*How does the world
respond?*

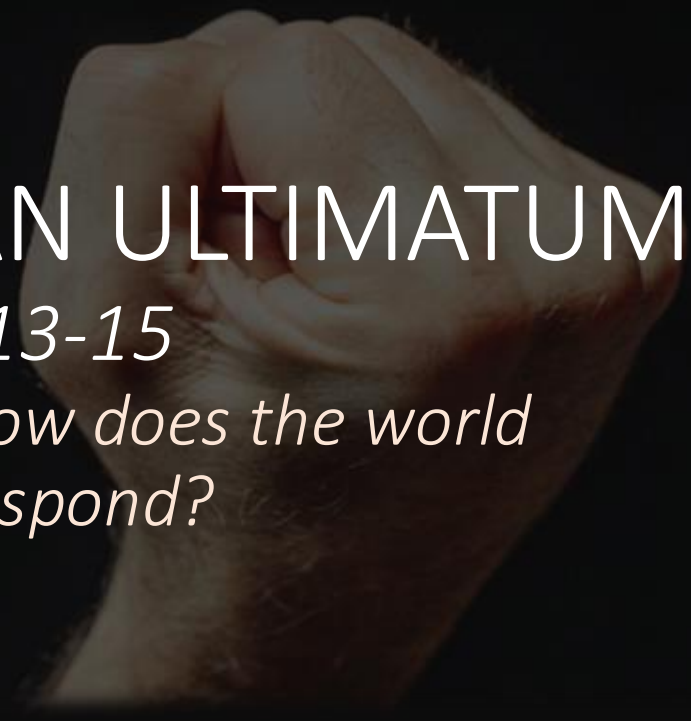
v13 The world's response to the clear testimony of a believer is 'rage and fury'

v14,15 The strong ultimatum is 'comply or die'

v15 There is a direct challenge to God - 'who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?'

APPLY:

THE WORLD'S RESPONSE TO THE BELIEVER IS NEVER RATIONAL. IF WE WILL NOT CONFORM, WE WILL SUFFER. THEY RIDICULE US, AND OUR GOD MERCILESSLY



AN ULTIMATUM

v13-15

*How does the world
respond?*

1 Peter 4:3-4

3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: 4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

Through a NT lens

A RESPONSE

v16-18

How do they respond?

v16 They give a calm, reasoned and wise response – they do not have to answer to the king, but they will

v17 They do not presume how God will act, but they know that he can deliver them, and that he will, if he so chooses

v18 Regardless of the outcome, there is no way they will give in to the worship of anything other than God

APPLY:

PETER EMPHASISES THE IMPORTANCE OF ALWAYS BEING READY TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO THE HOPE THAT IS WITHIN US – HE LEARNED THAT; THEY LEARNED THAT; SO SHOULD WE

A RESPONSE

v16-18

How do they respond?

Through a NT lens

1 Peter 3:13-17

13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? 14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

A JUDGEMENT

v19-23

*What is the world's final
assessment?*

v19,20 More extremes – seven times more; the most mighty men

There is no hint of resistance – in faith, they submit themselves to the will of God in the midst of the fire

v21-23 Immediately, those who cast them in are slain, and these three are thrown into the midst of the fire

APPLY:

FOR CENTURIES, THE WORLD HAS DONE ITS WORST TO THE BELIEVER. ARE WE READY TO SUFFER FOR HIS SAKE? WHAT SUFFERING FOR THOSE IN 7 YEARS OF TRIBULATION

A JUDGEMENT

v19-23

*What is the world's final
assessment?*

Through a NT lens

Matthew 10:28

28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES

George Wishart (burned at St Andrews, 1546)

Before his death, Foxe records him saying:

"I fear neither death nor fire, being prepared
for both."

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES

Hugh Latimer (burned with Nicholas Ridley, Oxford, 1555)

"Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man. We shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out."

Nicholas Ridley (burned with Latimer, 1555)

"Be of good heart, brother, for God will either assuage the fury of the flame, or else strengthen us to abide it."

A VINDICATION

v24-30

*What is God's final
assessment?*

v24 God intervenes, men are 'astounded'

v25 God intervenes, through 'a son of the gods' (RV), an 'angel' – surely a pre-incarnate revelation of the Son of God, the Angel of the Lord – they are 'loose' – earth's ties released

v26 God is honoured, His people are delivered

v27 God's deliverance is unequivocal

v28,29 Unbelievers are caused to glorify God

v30 'Those who honour me, I will honour'

1 Samuel 3:30

APPLY:

THE BELIEVER MAY FEEL ISOLATED OR
OPPRESSED, BUT GOD WILL ALWAYS
VINDICATE THOSE WHO HONOUR HIM

A VINDICATION

v24-30

*What is God's final
assessment?*

Through a NT lens

1 Peter 5:5-6

5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Matthew 23:11-12

11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE

ALWAYS ASK: IS THERE A
FUTURE APPLICATION?

This miraculous event is an allegory for future events, many of which are picked up later in the prophecy – what an encouragement to those in a future day

A despotic leader will rise up and demand worship, even in the temple of God

Any who refuse to worship him, will face immense persecution, suffering, and many will die

But this one will not prevail, and God will ultimately establish rule and reign through the Lord Jesus in his millennial kingdom, and then for eternity

Those who have been faithful through the ages, including in days of tribulation, will ultimately be found with him in that day

LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE

ALWAYS ASK: IS THERE A
FUTURE APPLICATION?

Revelation 13:1-8 (see also 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy... 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. 7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. 8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Theme	Daniel 3	Revelation	<i>Based on JMR</i>
The Nations	All ‘people, nations and languages’ are addressed by the herald (Daniel 3:4).	The beast has authority over ‘all kindreds, and tongues, and nations’ (Revelation 13:7).	
The Image	Nebuchadnezzar sets up an image for worship (Daniel 3).	The second beast causes people to make and worship ‘an image of the beast’ (Revelation 13:14–15).	
The Number Six	The dimensions and details of the image emphasise a repetition of ‘six.’	The beast’s number is ‘six hundred threescore and six’ (666) (Revelation 13:18).	
Compulsory Worship	All are commanded to worship the image (Daniel 3:5,15).	People are commanded to worship both the first beast (Revelation 13:12) and its image (Revelation 13:15).	
Blasphemy Against God	Nebuchadnezzar declares, ‘Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?’ (Daniel 3:15).	The beast speaks ‘great things and blasphemies’ and blasphemes God, His name, His tabernacle, and those in heaven (Revelation 13:5–6).	
The End	They are not hurt; they come through the fire; the fire has no power All opposition is put down	God’s people will suffer ‘Jacob’s trouble’ but will be saved out of it (Jeremiah 30:7). Opposition will be destroyed. Those who have not worshipped live and reign with Christ 1000 years (Revelation 20:4,14)	

LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE

What do others say?

The contrast of the God of Israel with the idols of Babylon is a reminder that the god of this world, behind Gentile dominion, is doomed to judgment at the hands of the sovereign God. This is illustrated in the fall of Babylon and of the succeeding empires of Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The downfall of these nations is a foreshadowing of the end of the times of the Gentiles when the Lion of the tribe of Judah returns to reign.

John Walvoord

FAITH IN THE FIRE

And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. *Hebrews 11:32-34*

FAITH IN THE FIRE

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. *1 Peter 4:12-13*

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