

# 4—The Fiery Furnace

“The Book of Daniel” (Ch. 3)

Pastor Mike Cooke

## 1. Three Additions to the Book of Daniel

- A. Found in early Greek LXX; but not in later Hebrew/Aramaic versions
- B. Considered canonical by Catholics, Orthodox and Orientals
- C. Considered Apocrypha by most Protestants and Jews
  - 1) Prayer of Azariah and Song of the Three Holy Children (Dan 3:24-90)
  - 2) Susanna and the Elders (epilogue to Dan. 1:1)
  - 3) Bel and the Dragon (after Dan 12:13 in LXX; after Dan 14 in Vulgate)

## 2. The Lord’s Supremacy over the God of Babylon

- A. The Enuma Elish (7<sup>th</sup> c) Creation Myth of Babylon”
  - 1) Tiamat (Mother Sea) convinces Ea (Father Sea) to kill the Annunaki (offspring gods) and give them peace
  - 2) Ea (Lord Earth) overhears and kills Apsu; Angering Tiamat who raises an army of gods and magical beings to wage war against the Annunaki
  - 3) The Annunaki look of a hero, but Ea is afraid at the sight of her, so Marduk, his son, steps up and volunteers to take on the challenge
  - 4) Gaining the blessing of Ea, and Ansar and Kisar, he volunteers for the job if he can be made king upon success
  - 5) Marduk kills Tiamat in epic fashion, pleasing the Annunaki who make him the new King of all the earth
- B. Coincides with the rise of the City of Babylon under Hammurabi (18<sup>th</sup> c)  
*“When the gods, his fathers, beheld the fulfillment of his word,  
They rejoiced, and they did homage unto him, saying, ‘Marduk is king!’  
They bestowed upon him the scepter, and the throne, and the ring,  
They give him an invincible weaponry which overwhelms the foe.  
‘Go, and cut off the life of Tiamat,  
And let the wind carry her blood into secret places.”*
- C. It is the basis of every dragon-slaying myth in history (Apollo and Python, Bel and the Dragon, St. George and the Dragon, The Hobbit, Shrek, etc.)
- D. The Lord Conquering the Babylonians (Isaiah 27:1)  
*In that day,  
the Lord will punish with his sword—  
his fierce, great and powerful sword—  
Leviathan the gliding serpent,  
Leviathan the coiling serpent;  
he will slay the monster of the sea.*

**3. The Giant statue calls to mind the conflict of the Greek Diadochi**

- A. The Ptolomies defend Rhodes against the Antigonids
- B. They build a statue 90 cubits tall in honor of Helix (280 BC)
- C. Colossus of Rhodes one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World
- D. Destroyed by an earthquake in 225 BC

**4. Antiochus IV builds a statue to Zeus in the Temple**

- A. Original "Abomination of Desolation" (Daniel 11:31)
- B. Encouraging a new generation not to bow down
- C. The abomination is repeating by the Romans (Matthew 24:15)  
*When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand;) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.*

**5. The "Son of God" in the Fire**

- A. Daniel 3:25
  - 1) "And the fourth looks like a son of the gods." (NIV)
  - 2) "And the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." (KJV)
  - 3) Aram (*bar alohiyn*)
- B. Appears in Dead Sea Scroll Q4-246 "The Daniel Apocryphon"