



Bible Prophecy Guide

The Rise & Fall of Religious Freedom

Summary 2

Revelation 14:9-12 – This angel warns us that a day is coming when much of the world will worship the beast and receive his dreaded mark. The righteous are contrasted with the wicked as being those who hold to the faith and commandments of God. As we will see in this study, history portrays that this took place long ago and thus gives us insight into what is to come.

The story of the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1-7 – Nebuchadnezzar wanted his kingdom to last forever so he made an image of pure gold in what appears to be an attempt to defy the dream he had in chapter 2. He tried to change the symbol that God gave through the various metals in the image in his dream and instead make it an image of only gold. When you change the symbol, you change the meaning. Sometimes we think we can make just a small change to God's revelation but even a small change is rebellion before God.

The measurements remind us of the fact that the Babylonian numbering system was based on the number six which suggests a link between the Babylon of Revelation and the number of the Beast which is 666.

Dan. 3:8-18 - Daniel's three friends demonstrated a strong faith when they refused to worship the image regardless of the consequences. God may not always deliver at first but He promises to go with us through the difficult times. Compromise is never acceptable before God. He desires total surrender even when the consequences seem dismal.

Mark 13:9, 13 – We should expect to stand before rulers and kings someday for Christ's sake.

Revelation 2:10 – We are instructed to be faithful unto death, and He will reward us with a crown of life.

Job 13:15 – God's people will stand firm for Jesus in the face of death.

Daniel 3:19-30 - A key message in Daniel 3 is that God may not always keep you from trial and tribulation but he will go through it with you. Thus we hear of martyrs who were burned at the stake while singing. Jesus suffered persecution for you, are you willing to do the same for Him should the occasion arise? Jesus is looking for an unwavering faith amidst His people.

Revelation 13:11-17 – The nature of the decree in Daniel 3 seems to have a striking similarity to the prophecy regarding the time of the end and the mark of the beast.

Both Daniel 3, 6 & Revelation 13 share the following characteristics:

- Powerful World leader Commands Worship
- Basic Issue: God's Law vs. Man's Law
- Universal Decree
- Church and State Unite
- Death Decree

The Story of Daniel & The Lions Den

Daniel 6 – Daniel refused to change his practice of praying towards the temple in his window even when it meant death.

1 Kings 8:30 – Daniel was adhering to the practice of faith that God's people had of praying towards the temple in faith that God would hear and forgive.

John 17:3 – Eternal life centers on having a relationship with Jesus. To know Him is to experience salvation. But relationships take time and time is what Satan works hardest at taking away from us. Are you willing to take time for Jesus, to know Him and follow Him? It takes faith and courage, the kind of faith and courage that Daniel & his friends had. May God grant us just such a faith today!

God calls us to walk by faith and not by sight. Will you do so regardless the cost? Prophecy predicts as we will later see of a day when everyone will face a similar decision as these three men. Will you be ready for such a decision? Now is the time to form a deep & trusting relationship with Jesus so that that day won't catch you unaware.

Joshua 24:15 - . . . *Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . .but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

We can be most grateful that we live in a land where there is free choice. The religious freedom that we enjoy today allows us the opportunity to choose whom we will serve. Such a freedom must not be taken lightly. But while these doors of freedom remain open, we must make our choice.