

Rev. Douglas Kuiper Daniel 3 Edgerton PRC, 2/21/16 P.M.

- The chapter speaks of God's preserving work in the hearts of true believers.
- Three other passages of Scripture relate directly or indirectly to this.
- One writing which is of no value in understanding our text is the apocryphal Song of Three Children in the Furnace.

Daniel: God's Antithetical, Indestructible, Triumphant Kingdom (5)

Daniel's Three Friends Tried by Fire

1) Serving Jehovah Alone.

- a) The occasion for the trial by fire was the refusal of these men to worship the image which Nebuchadnezzar had set up.
- b) The antithetical character of God's kingdom is underscored: God's saints do not worship images which men set up, even under great pressure to do so.

2) Enduring the Fires of Affliction.

- a) Significantly, the punishment which Nebuchadnezzar meted out took the form of throwing them into a burning fiery furnace.
- b) They endured this trial, by grace; God's kingdom is indestructible!

3) Coming Forth as Gold.

- a) Fire can destroy; but it can also purify and manifest precious metals to be genuine.
- b) God's kingdom triumphs when, after our faith is tried, we come forth as gold!