

### **“Heaven Rules” (Daniel 4:26). By Pastor Francis Williams**

Some of the most beloved and well-known stories in the Bible are found in the Book of Daniel. Everyone who was raised in Sunday School learned about the Three Hebrew lads, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who were delivered from the fiery furnace. Even those who possess a scanty knowledge of the Bible have heard of Daniel in the den of lions. And if you have not heard about the king who turned into a beast you may want to read Daniel chapter 4!

What then do all these stories and visions in the Book have in common? A careful reading of the entire Book clearly shows that all the stories, dreams and visions are connected by a single theme, the sovereignty of God.

Interestingly, the stories in chapters 3 and 6 follow an almost identical plot. Each opens with an introduction. In chapter 3 the story begins with a proclamation by King Nebuchadnezzar for all the people to worship his golden image (3:1-6). At the beginning of chapter 6, the king promotes Daniel to one of the highest positions in the Medo-Persian kingdom. The introduction, in both stories, is followed by an accusation against the Hebrew men by their enemies. Daniel's friends are accused of refusing to worship the golden image, while Daniel's enemies accused him of praying to his God. Thus, Daniel and his friends ignored the king's edit. When they remained faithful to their God, the Hebrew men were condemned to their fatality. In each case, however, their God delivered them from death. Both stories end with the promotion of Daniel and his friends.

The two stories above (Chapters 3&6), as well as the other stories, dreams and visions in the Book of Daniel, demonstrate that God is sovereign. God's sovereignty means that He is the ruler of His creation. That is why Nebuchadnezzar was brought to his demise so that he, and everyone, may recognize that HEAVEN RULES. Just as David declares, “The LORD has established His throne in the heavens; And His sovereignty rules over all” (Psalm 103:19).