

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

AN OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET

PROPHET DANIEL remains to this day one of the most fascinating figures from ancient Israel. He was one of the multitude of persons taken to Babylon some six hundred years before Christ. That period when the Israelites were taken by the Chaldeans from the “land of milk and honey” is known as the Babylonian Captivity.

Daniel became one of the leaders of the people in exile. He became, in fact, one of the chief advisors to the king. But the kingdom was pagan, and Daniel and God’s people would not bow down and pray to false gods. This led to difficulties. The Book of Daniel tells about three young men who were thrown into a fiery furnace because they refused to worship an idol. They walked in the fire unharmed as the Angel of the Lord protected them from the flames.

During the reign of King Darius, some of the native princes became overly jealous of Daniel, who occupied an important position. They found a way to trap him. They got the king to decree that anyone who made a request to any god or man, other than the king, was to be thrown into a den of lions. Thus the king was deemed divine. Daniel knelt as usual praying three times a day by his window open towards Jerusalem. There the enemy princes found him praying to God, and reported him to Darius. The ruler was troubled, but consigned Daniel to the lion’s den. Our Lord saved him and Daniel was restored to position and favor of the king. His spiritual strength had protected this man of God.

