

## The Third part of the Vision

### 1. The Heavenly Scene

(9) "As I looked, thrones were set in place\*, and the Ancient of Days took his seat.\* His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. (10) A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated,\* and the books were opened."

There is a striking change of scene between verses 8 and 9. The pictures that follow (vv. 9-14) are so interesting and vivid that it is easy to overlook the structure of the passage. These six verses correspond to the three events in the dynamic portion of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (2:34-35, 44-45).

In verses 9-10 Daniel's vision of the terrible events on earth is interrupted for a time by a vision of God's power and glory. His eyes turn away from the terrible earthly events to see what is happening in heaven, the only source from which deliverance can come.

Daniel sees a symbolic representation of the great Creator, designated by the term "the Ancient of Days." This term stresses God's eternity, in contrast to the finiteness of the great earthly powers.

The purity and righteousness of God are symbolized by His clothing, white as snow, and His hair, white like wool.

God's power is shown as dynamic and active. His throne is "flaming with fire." Its wheels are "all ablaze." A river of fire flows from before Him. Thousands of thousands attend Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stand before Him

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*\*See the Excursus on pp. 106-109 for discussion of KJV readings at these points.*