

# Daniel

## 5 – Falling Down and Standing Up Daniel 3.1-18

### Framing Questions

- Can I trust God, even in Babylon? (sovereign and faithful)
- Should I trust God, even in Babylon? (fortress or forsake)

### Lip Service ≠ Genuine Transformation (2.46-3.7)

- The creation of a man not worthy of worship vs. the Creator God who is worthy of worship
- 10x – “set up” vs. the God of heaven will set up a Kingdom that shall never be destroyed

### Expect Opposition (3.8-15)

- There will always be forces opposed to God’s people and God’s purposes – *always*
  - What God may be doing is shaking (which is different than opposition) – or He may be using the opposition to do the shaking
- Neb’s question was a challenge – “There’s no god out there who cares enough about you to contend for your life against my powerful gods”

### Trusting God in the moment means trusting God with the outcome (3.16-18)

- Their response:
  - Our lives speak for themselves (v.16)
    - We are willing to live and even serve in Babylon, but we will not let Babylon live in us
    - They had a clear mandate from God (Exodus 20) about idol worship – not what they *thought* was true, but what God had clearly commanded
    - Most of the time, spiritual warfare looks like our simple obedience (Prov. 28.4)
  - “If our God exists – which He does – then He is able to save...” (v.17)
    - Ends in almost a prayer – deliver us...
  - Outcome is in God’s hand (v.18)
    - We recognize that this may be the end of us, but we will be faithful to the end
- “WILL I trust God, even in Babylon?”

Jesus before Pilate (John 19.10-11) – same challenge: “Who has authority here?”

- Jesus – I have authority to lay my life down AND take it up again (John 10.17-18)

Questions for Discussion:

1. The biblical text keeps using the phrase “set up” to remind us of the idol’s origins. What are 2-3 modern idols that we have “set up” that everyone demands we worship? How easy or difficult is it for you to stand up while others are falling down to worship them?
2. In a secular culture, the kinds of opposition we face as followers of Jesus will differ. Read 1 Peter 4.12-19. What kinds of reactions does Peter want us to have when we encounter the opposition?
3. When is a time in your life when you had to stand up for God even when you couldn’t predict the outcome of doing so? What happened as a result? What did you lose? What did you gain?
4. COVID Check-in: how are you? Your family? Your neighbors? Your One that you have been praying for?