

**Daniel**  
**Part 6 – Consumed by the Fire**  
**Daniel 3.13-30**

The story isn't a children's story about obeying God no matter what – although that is there

- The story has a lot to say about unchecked power and how we don't just function but really live as God intends in a broken and, at times, unjust society
- Just because our idols don't look the same (power, prestige, possessions, people to get those) doesn't mean they aren't real and they won't demand our worship and won't become angry when that demand is not met

Neb's Two Questions:

1. Is there a god to rescue? (aka can we trust him) v.14-15
  - a. They were under the sentence of death!
  - b. They were bound captive with no power to rescue themselves
2. Is there a god who cares? (aka should we trust Him)? v.16
  - a. Question arises when we do the right thing and the outcome still looks bad
  - b. Question arises when we heard the accusing and condemning voices
  - c. What do we do? Stay Calm and do good anyway (1 Peter 4.19)

God's Rescue

He rescued them through the fire, not from it

- At some point, we all hit the existential crisis of facing our own fire, judgment, failure, mortality – the process was terrifying for them (irony is those that obeyed Neb died, 3 friends lived)

He rescued them by joining them, not from afar

- Some think the preincarnate Christ – either way a sure sign that God was with them (and what more can you want at that moment?)
- Isaiah 43.1-2

He rescued them fully, not partially

- He saved them from death and gave them life – but that's not the whole story
- He saved them from bondage and gave them freedom – can you imagine being in the fire and still being bound?

This is the Gospel – God doesn't just shield us but lets Himself be consumed by what should have consumed and killed us to give us His life and His freedom

A note before the questions...

We had a cable break and missed about 10 minutes or so of the sermon on the video. The audio is fully captured and is available on our website. We encourage you to listen to the entire teaching because of all that God said to us from Daniel 3.

Questions for Discussion:

1. In what ways can you see this story in Daniel 3 as “bigger than a children’s story?”
2. How does our culture challenge us with the same questions as Nebuchadnezzar’s? How does it question God’s power? How does it question God’s care?
3. What is one way that you have been “in the fire” and found God there?
4. What is one way that you have been “in the fire” and come out with more freedom precisely because you went through the fire?
5. COVID Check-in: how are you? Your family? Your neighbors? Your One?