

Standing in the Fire

Daniel 3

Intro: clapping as a test of loyalty

This morning the Lord has this passage for us to learn of his glory as we consider ourselves...how we often take aim at God's reign and rule in order to depend on a temporary allegiance. We see God in his glory in the passage as an expression of his mercy to lead us to himself as our greatest good.

1. The Fight to Be God (v.1-15)

Nebuchadnezzar's Image of Gold

Quiet Confidence and the Strength to Stand

2. God in the Fire (v.16-30)

Faith in the Face of Fury

Faith in desires v. Faith in God

'Biblical faith is not confidence in particular outcomes; it is confidence in a sovereign God. We trust that he knows what we cannot discern, plans what we cannot anticipate, and secures our eternity in ways beyond our fathoming. Our trust is not in the quantity or the quality of our belief. Our trust in God is not built on insights we possess or wishes we manufacture. The Bible does not teach us to look inward to discern what we should be trusting. Faith is not confidence in our belief but confidence in our God. Any other perspective will ultimately harm our faith.'

Bryan Chapell, *The Gospel According to Daniel*

Cast Bound into the Furnace

In the Midst of the Fire

1 Peter 1:3-9 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible*

and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

'Christ did not keep them out of the furnace but found them in it. He does not always shield you from all distresses and dangers, but it is in the loneliness, in the betrayal, in the loss that the Fourth Man comes and walks with you. He has the knack of both exposing you to, yet keeping you through, waters and rivers and fire (cf. Isa. 43:2-3) - and operating rooms and funeral parlours and an empty house. The Fourth Man can always find his people.'

Dale Ralph Davis, *The Message of Daniel*

Powerless Fire

'God has not promised to give us the grace to face all the desperate situations that we might imagine finding ourselves in. He has promised to sustain us only in the ones that he actually brings us into. He therefore doesn't promise that we will be able to imagine how we could go through the fire for his sake, but he does promise that if he leads through the fire, he will give us sufficient grace at that time. Like manna, grace is not something that can be stored up for later use: each day receives its own supply.'

Iain Duguid, *Daniel*

Conclusion:

Romans 12:1-2 - *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and*

perfect.