

Sermon Series Title: "Christmas in Daniel"

Sermon Series Summary: For two weeks, we will be looking at Christmas in Daniel. In this book, we see that Christ is the One who has come in the flesh, has revealed to us God's will, and is our salvation hope.

"For two weeks, we will look at Christmas from the book of Daniel, seeing our God who has come in Jesus Christ to be with us and to save us."

Call: Isaiah 9:6

Text: Daniel 3:16-28

Title: "The Son of God"

Next Week's Call: 2 Samuel 2:1-2

Next Week's Text: Luke 8:40-56

Next Week's Title: "EM Vision, Part One"

Future Calls: 2 Samuel 2:3, 4, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23-25, 26-27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 40-43, 47, 50-51

Future Titles: "EM Vision, Part Two" (Romans 1:16-17); "The Start of Paul's Ministry" (Acts 9:19b-31); "The Healing through Peter" (Acts 9:32-43); "Cornelius' Prayer" (Acts 10:1-8, 30-33); "Peter's Vision" (Acts 10:9-29); "Cornelius' Salvation" (Acts 10:34-48); "Peter's Report" (Acts 11:1-18); "The First Gentile Church" (Acts 11:19-30); "The First Apostolic Martyr" (Acts 12:1-5); "Peter's Rescue" (Acts 12:6-19); "Herod's Death" (Acts 12:20-25)

Fallen Condition Focus: We live in a broken world, and we are sinners, deserving the fire of God's wrath.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ is with us in the fire of our trials, and He saves us from the fire of the judgment of God.

Proposition: "Christ has come to be with us, and Christ has come to save us."

Summary: After God revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream and saved the wise men in ch. 2, we see in the next chapter that Nebuchadnezzar erects a statue of gold, showing his wealth, power, and fame. He requires all the wise men to bow down to it whenever the music is played. Daniel's three friends remain faithful to the Lord and are punished with death by fire. However, we see that God is with them in the fire and delivers them from the fire. God

is with us in the fire of our trials, and we know He delivers us from the ultimate fire of God's judgment for our sin.

Reflective Questions:

1. How does the example of Daniel's three friends encourage us to be faithful when it's hard?
2. What does their deliverance show us about our deliverance in Christ?

I. Introduction

- A. Hook- Hallmark Christmas
- B. Transition- Not always the case
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

II. The Requirement

- A. In vv. 1-15, we see Nebuchadnezzar builds a 9-story golden image of his gods or himself for all the wise men to worship on the plain of Dura, next to the furnace.
 1. Relativistic culture- believe in whichever gods you want to believe, but you have to worship Nebuchadnezzar's gods and statue.
 1. This helps keep his kingdom united, while also showing his wealth and power.
 2. This image may be built to counteract his dream in ch. 2 where he was represented as the head of gold, but other inferior kingdoms of silver and bronze would rise after him. Nebuchadnezzar is trying to show that his kingdom will last forever.
 1. "Set up" 9 times in this chapter like 2:21- leaving a legacy
 - B. There is humor in the writing of all the peoples required to worship.
 - C. They are to worship the idol when the music plays- like a service.
 - D. The three friends do not worship the image, and that news is told to the king. They are accused of ingratitude and impiety.
 - E. Nebuchadnezzar gives them one last chance to obey or else they will be thrown into the furnace.

III. The Resolve (vv. 16-21)

- A. The three friends answer the king.
 1. They don't address him as king, addressing his humanity.
 2. They say that there is no need to respond, since this is a worship matter (almost like Joshua 24).

- B. They are confident in their Lord saving them, but if not, they are resolved to still not worship the golden image.
 - 1. We need to have the confidence for God to deliver and heal, but at the same time, we need to have the submission to His will. (Gethsemane)
- C. Nebuchadnezzar is furious that he orders the furnace to be heated 7 times more. He orders his mighty men to bind (to not escape) and throw them into the fire (certain of death).

IV. The Redemption (vv. 22-28)

- A. Even the mighty men cannot be saved from the fire.
- B. But the three friends are unbound, walking unhurt in the midst of the fire.
- C. We see that there is a fourth man in the fire like the son of the gods.
- D. They are called out, and all the wise men are gathered together.
- E. The fire had no power over them. No hair is singed, no cloaks harmed, and no smell upon them.
 - 1. This shows how complete God's deliverance is.
- F. Nebuchadnezzar praises God for this deliverance.

V. The Redemption for Us

- A. We walk through fire of our trials in our lives. We trust that God can deliver but we submit to God's will. More than anything, we know that Christ will be with us in the hardship.
 - 1. Christ entered into brokenness- genealogy, no room for an inn, shame upon the family with a mom pregnant out of wedlock, refugee because of the genocide, homeless in his ministry, rejected by his people.
 - 2. The doctrine of the incarnation is that he can feel our pain. He became one of us. He is the only God who became mortal and took on our wounds. Jesus of our wounds.
- B. Christ is the one who took on the fire for us.
 - 1. He was sentenced to death by unjust rulers, like the three friends.
 - 2. He was rejected and betrayed like the three friends.
 - 3. He obeyed out of submission and faith. He trusted. Faithful obedience in the face of death, and for Jesus, His faithful obedience led to his death, not his deliverance. He received it all for our sins.
 - 4. He received all the judgment for our sins, so that we may not receive even the smell of judgment on us.