

Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Son of God” Daniel 3:16-28

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.

Setting: Daniel is a book about belief in an unbelieving world as the prophet navigates life in an exiled world. Daniel’s ministry covers from King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to Cyrus’ reign of Persia, around 70 years of adult-life.

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.

Sermon Points:

1. The Requirement
2. The Resolve
3. The Redemption
4. The Redemption For Us

Main Idea: *“Christ has come to be with us, and Christ has come to save us.”*

Opening Question

1. Why is Jesus coming to earth so significant for you?

(Answers will vary.)

We are continuing our “Christmas in Daniel” sermon series as we look at how Christ has come and has come saved in our passage this week.

Read Daniel 3:16-28

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After Daniel reveals and interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream in ch. 2, he creates a 9-story golden image for all the wise men to worship in ch. 3. However, we see that Daniel's three friends are resolved to not bow down to the idol and face death as a consequence.

2. How does the example of Daniel's three friends encourage us to be faithful when it's hard?

(They address Nebuchadnezzar just by his name. This man is the conqueror over many nations. He is the reason why the three friends were pulled from their homeland. He has the authority to throw them into the fire for their death. And yet, they address him just by his name. It's because they understand that he is no more than a man before God at the end of the day. The authority given to him is the authority from above. They understand that he is just a man.

They trust in God's ability to save. They are confident in it. They know that if it was God's will, God will protect and redeem them. For some of us, this kind of confidence or faith may be a struggle. We experienced disappointment too much, and we want to guard ourselves. We don't want to be disappointed, since God didn't answer our previous prayers. So instead of hoping and believing, we doubt or we say prayers in faith with our lips but not with our hearts.

However, they also submit to God's will. They know that if it isn't God's will to save and protect them, God is still good and sovereign. They will still be faithful to the Lord. Some of us may struggle with this. We pray with faith not just in God's ability but certainty in God's will. We believe that God has to answer our prayer, because we prayed it or we know God's will with certainty.

We need both faith and submission in our obedience. We also need the humility to know that God's will is mysterious. His ways are not our ways. We obey and are faithful even in the face of opposition, and we trust in God's power and presence.)

3. What does their deliverance show us about our deliverance in Christ?

(Will God deliver us from every trial? No. All the people of God throughout history have experienced suffering. I love the way Hebrews 11 ends. We see people who have miraculous deliverances, and at the same time, we have people of faith who have died as martyrs. Most of the apostles died as martyrs. But our passage shows us that Jesus is with us in our trials. He is present with us in the valley of the shadow of death. He is present with us in our pain and hurt. That's part of the reason why Jesus becoming

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flesh is so significant. He is able to hurt, weep, and grieve with us. He is the only God with wounds, and it's those wounds that show us His sympathy and love.

But our Christian hope is sure in that though we are not delivered from the trials in our lives, we are delivered from the ultimate fire of God's wrath for our sin. We will not experience any judgment for sin, because Jesus has paid it all. He received all of God's judgment and wrath for our sin, so that we may be saved and preserved. Our salvation is so complete that not even our hair or our clothes will have the smell of fire on them. We are forgiven and free completely.)

Final Thoughts: *This story shows us faithful obedience even in the face of death. We see trust in God's power and submission to God's will. We see God with us in our trials and God delivering us completely from our sins. This is all possible due to Jesus' faithful obedience in the face of death. He trusted and submitted to the Lord. But his faithful obedience led to His death, not His deliverance, so that we who deserved the judgment of death may be delivered.*