

Daniel 3:14-29 There is no other god who is able to rescue in this way...

Read Daniel 3

1. *Read Genesis 11:1-9.* It is quite likely that Nebuchadnezzar built his tower of gold on or very near the ruins of the tower of Babel. In light of this what was Nebuchadnezzar seeking to accomplish in his desire to have the officials (who would represent every conquered nation) bow down to it?
2. (14) "or" Nebuchadnezzar was not seeking exclusive fealty, he seemed quite content to let people keep their private faith commitments as long as they were unified in this public act. In our culture do you sense the pressure to keep faith convictions private? to not bring them into the social, political, economic landscape of our world? Why do you think there exists this pressure? Why do we succumb to it?
3. (16-18) Consider the faith of the three Jewish exiles. What do you think motivates their response to the King?
4. (29) "There is no other god who is able to rescue in this way" What do you think struck Nebuchadnezzar as unique about the rescue of the most high God?
5. *Read Matthew 13: 36-43.* It is thought by some scholars that the fourth figure in the flames is a preincarnate manifestation of Jesus. How does this passage from Matthew 13 and this identification help us to make sense of how this story points us to the work of Jesus on the cross?
6. *Read Acts 2:1-12* Nebuchadnezzar sought to unify the peoples of the earth around the Babylonian culture, faith, language under his kingship through violence, oppression, and assimilation. Through his death and resurrection, by the power of the Spirit Jesus unifies the people of the earth through his sacrificial love. How does making this connection help us to understand Jesus' work and how we might participate in it?