



Scriptural Background: Dan 3

"He answered and said, 'But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.'" Dan 3:25

The fiery furnace is one of the more famous stories in the Bible. We rightly admire the courage of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and of course we love the way this particular story plays out. The episode is also one of the Bible's most satirical mockeries of idolatry. All the pomp and circumstance of Babylon gather for a hunk of metal (3:1–3). In contrast stands the calm faith of Daniel's friends. Theirs is true faith—leaving the result up to God (3:17–18)—not faith in the quantity of your faith, which says if you believe enough, you'll get what you ask. In reply, a divine-human God-man protects the three men and keeps them safe (3:24–26). Their bodies were not harmed. Their heads were not singed. Their robes were not scorched (3:27). But the most telling part of the story is that this God-man preserved the others not by plucking them *out of* the fire of destruction but by *entering into* the fire with them. Why did this Presence keep them safe? How can you know it will keep you safe as well? Because there was another time when He came down, entered the fire of judgment, and took the heat in full (Rom 3:25). See Him do that for you, and it'll give you faith in Him, put an end to your idolatry, and lead you to worship Him alone forever. That's what it really means to be safe.

Prayer:

LORD Jesus, thank You for entering our condition with us and for us. Thank You for absorbing the full heat of the fire of God that I may be spared and preserved. Lift my eyes off just this world and onto eternity. Fill me with such a view of Your wonder this day that all other competitors for my worship would look silly and contemptible in comparison. Amen.