

12/9/18 OT #45

IF I PERISH, I PERISH

GT

Daniel 1; 3; 6; Esther 3-5; 7-8
add 7

ch. 1 pressure to give up Jewish identity

they dressed, spoke, worked as Babylonians - actually worked for Babylon. Apparently, the food wasn't "kosher."

ESTHER

inconvenient

Irony Reversal

Models of trust & hope

ch. 3 fiery furnace (where is Daniel?)

God can deliver us... but if not, we won't worship your God
"But if not" Elder Simmons

we are accountable not to earthly kings, but to a greater king
Nebuchadnezzar rules as an "image" (tselem) - or "statue"

When Israel seems abandoned, in exile does that mean God is absent?

Gen 1:27-28 humanity in the image of God, be fruitful, increase in number, fill earth and subdue it, rule over it (every living creature)

No - even if he works through

ch. 6 lion's den

just as in ch. 3, it is the enemies of the faithful who point out the infraction

BUT Kingdoms become beasts when they create god in the image of earthly authority
exposé of human idolatry of national identity

morally compromised people, God is committed to redeeming his world.

God's people are to wait for God to show his faithfulness to his people & determination to rule our world - resist the temptation to equate your national idol with morality.

assimilated

ch

A pattern: human kingdoms become violent beasts

- hides Jewish identity
- no mention of Yehweh

promise: God will confront the beast & assert his superiority over all nations

images already exist of God: you are one

God's idea was already to rule the world through his image

The fall: man substituted his own idea of right and wrong for God's replacing God's image (man) with man's image (idol) - usurping this rule of God over earth

ch. 3:19 - Nebuchadnezzar's visage ("tselem") changes

Babylon is archetype of humanity in rebellion - this is very much a modern problem

joke: the idol is the tselem of Neb. but now he can't control his own visage -> the original tselem

Son of God - divine looking being

Soldiers die -> The king will throw away human lives just to kill those who offend him

Did God deliver them from being thrown into the furnace? No
What they find is that God was in the fire with them

Q: why was it ok (i.e. not idolatry) for God to instruct Moses to create a brazen serpent
2 Kings 18:4
Nehushtan