

Daniel 3

'God like no other'

That passage from Daniel is a powerful and vivid one ... but perhaps not all that easy to relate to our times and our lives.

But, one sentence stood out for me (**Verse 29b**):

'There is no other god who is able to deliver in this way'

That, obviously, was said centuries before the birth of Jesus ... yet it was said of the God who came among us ... the God who is Three in One and One in Three.

'There is no other god who is able to deliver in this way'

The 'deliverance' we believe in, the deliverance we experience is not identical to that in Daniel 3, it's much more wide-ranging, universal ... yet still ***there is no other god who is able to deliver ... in the way that the God we believe in does.***

No other god

... no other god has come among us
 has died and been raised for us
 has sent the Holy Spirit upon us ...

And so I'm going to read a short meditation on the presence of Jesus among us:

(A simple dialogue which reflects on the ministry of Jesus)

Personnel: **A and B**

A: He was present in the temple,

B: but not just the temple ...

He was present
where women made bread in the kitchen
and when women mended clothes in the sun,
so that he could find the language
with which to tell bakers and menders
about God's kingdom.

A: He was present in the synagogue,

B: but not just in the synagogue ...

He was present where farmers sowed fields,
harvested crops and hired labourers,
so that he could find the language
to let farmers and farm-hands
know what God intended.

A: He was present in an upstairs room,

B: but not just in one upstairs room

or at one special dinner.

He ate in numerous houses,
told stories at table,
brought in uninvited guests,
upset his hosts,
and was called a glutton and a drunkard:
... and all this so that the marginalised
might sample heaven's hospitality.

A: He was present in the garden,

B: but not just one garden.

He admired the gracefulness of growing things
listened to birds,
watched sunsets,
and spent times on the hills alone
communing with his maker
while nature communed with hers.

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A: He was present on the cross,

B: but only because he had been present

at other crossroads ...

scandalously present with a woman at a well,

argumentatively present in a circle of legalists

gregoriously present at the wedding of a neighbour,

angrily present at the grave of a friend.

He was present on the cross

because his presence was unwanted.

A: He was present in the grave

to dust the fear from death.

B: He is present now in heaven

to be everywhere on earth.

("He was present" Present on Earth WGRG 2002)

Amen.