

Our God is Able To Deliver Us

Introduction: Daniel 3:13-18

The Bad News

- One or more of us could get COVID-19, get real sick from it, or possibly even worse. But, that's not the only thing...
- One or more of us could be in a serious car accident.
- We could also get sick from something besides COVID-19, something that could turn out to be even more debilitating.
- Any number of bad things could happen to any of us (young, old, and in between), and we know that, because some really bad things have happened to some of our brethren in the past.

The Good News

- In the words of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, from Daniel 3:17: “Our God...is able to deliver us.”
- Let’s read together Psalms 91 (theme of deliverance).
 - Note the many different dangers described in this Psalm, and the promises of deliverance (especially vv. 3, 14, 15).
 - Focus, too, on the safety, security, and peace God’s people can have “under the shadow of the Almighty” —how important it is to have Him as our “refuge” and “fortress.”

A Closer Look at Psalms 91

- We don't want to take away from the reassurance and comfort this Psalm provides, but we do need to think about what we know from Scripture elsewhere.
- As we look through Scripture, God did NOT always deliver His people from the different perils described in this Psalm (at least not immediately).
 - Nor does He always deliver His people today.

Examples

- Even Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego realized God might NOT deliver them from the fiery furnace (“but if not” — Daniel 3:18).
- The great King Josiah, killed in battle (2 Kings 23:29-30).
- God was **able** to deliver Stephen (Acts 7), but He didn’t.
- God delivered Peter from Herod’s sword (Acts 12), but not James.
- God delivered Epaphroditus from his sickness (Phil. 2), but He didn’t do that for every Christian.
- Paul’s thorn in the flesh (2 Cor. 12), Timothy’s “frequent infirmities” (1 Timothy 5:23). Able to deliver, but didn’t.

So What Gives?

- I thought if we loved, trusted, and served God, and cried out to Him for help, He would deliver us from every peril we might face in this life.
- Without digging deeper, without considering all of Scripture, we might easily draw that conclusion from Psalms 91.
- So...let's make two observations from Scripture that will hopefully give us a deeper understanding (next 2 slides).

Observation #1

- For those of us who are Christians, and who continue to hold fast to the Lord, we have already been delivered from the worst things (far worse than the perils described thus far).
- God delivered us from the guilt of all our past sins, delivered us from this evil world, delivered us from darkness, delivered us from the power of Satan, delivered us from the wrath to come, delivered us from the fear of death.
 - Read carefully the following passages: Acts 26:16-18; Galatians 1:3-4 (together with Acts 2:40); Colossians 1:13-14; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 5:9-10; Hebrews 2:14-15.

Observation #2

- There is deliverance and THEN there is DELIVERANCE.
 - 2 Timothy 4:16-18: Paul described a time when He was “delivered out of the mouth of the lion,” but then described a greater deliverance, a future deliverance: “And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.”
 - And notice the confidence He expresses in that greater deliverance: 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

To Further Drive the Point Home

- God didn't deliver brother Jesse from his recent illness, Lynn's mother from Alzheimer's, Lisa Carter from cancer, but He did deliver them in the greatest way possible—He delivered them from every evil work and preserved them for His heavenly kingdom.
- And don't forget all the things from which He had already delivered them.
- Turns out God has been delivering all along.

“Our God is Able to Deliver Thee”

- William A. Odgen was exactly right when he penned these words back in 1887:
 - “Tis the **grandest theme** through the ages rung; tis the **grandest theme** for a mortal tongue; tis the **grandest theme** that the world e’er sung, **our God is able to deliver thee.**”
 - The last part of the chorus: “Though by sin oppressed, go to Him for rest, our God is able to deliver thee.”