

1. Last week I finished teaching the Doctrine of Anger and taught Daniel chapter three verses fourteen, fifteen and sixteen.

2. Before continuing that study I want to give you an expanded translation of Daniel chapter three verses seven through sixteen.

Dan 3:7 The band began to play and all the people fell down and worshipped the image as commanded except for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Dan 3:8 Several members of a priestly caste peeked and noticed that there were three very conspicuous Jews who did not bow so they asked and received an audience with Nebuchadnezzar. One of the jealous priest reported that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not bow.

Dan 3:9 They greeted the King and said "O King live forever.

Dan 3:10 You have made a decree that at the sound of the band every man shall fall down and worship the golden image.

Dan 3:11 And anyone who fails to fall down and worship shall be thrown into the burning fiery furnace.

Dan 3:12 There are certain Jews whom you appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon that have not shown respect to the king. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego neither serve your gods nor worship the golden image".

Dan 3:13 This caused Nebuchadnezzar to be hot with anger; the King was livid so he commanded his palace guards to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to the palace.

Dan 3:14 Nebuchadnezzar asked the three boys, "did you intentionally not bow down to worship my god? I hope you now realize that all of you are in serious trouble; the mere act of refusing to bow and worship, whether intentional or not is a serious offense.

Dan 3:15 If your actions were not deliberate then the next time you hear the music be sure you fall down and worship the image and if you do I will forget the whole thing; be certain however, if you do not obey, you will be thrown into the fiery furnace and I can assure there is no god anywhere powerful enough to save you.

Dan 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not even have to consider our answer."

3. Now let's look at the answer so readily proffered:

Dan 3:17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

Principles:

1. "Able" is a Piel participle of Yakal, and "deliver" is the Piel infinitive of Shazab. The Peal recall is an intensive stem.

2. The phrase "He is able to deliver us," refers to God's sovereignty and omnipotence.

3. That God is both sovereign and omnipotent is without question.

4. Let's look at these two essences:

1. Sovereignty - God has supreme volition; He has always been the supreme and all powerful ruler over all things.

1.1 There is no higher power or higher volition.

1.2 All things are subject unto Him.

1.3 Everything falls under the permissive will of God.

1.4 God desires the best for us but because of our volition and imperfect choices, He provides less than the best but perfect.

1.5 God is sovereign and there will come a time at the Second Advent when the Father will say to the Son: "now is Your time implement operation footstool." Until then however the Lord laughs from heaven at how serious man considers him and herself.

Psa 2:1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

Psa 2:3 "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."

Psa 2:4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

Psa 100:3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Psa 104:17 There the birds make their nests; the stork has its home in the pine trees.

Psa 104:18 The high mountains belong to the wild goats; the crags are a refuge for the coney (animals and birds seeking shelter).

Psa 104:19 The moon marks off the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down.

Psa 104:20 You bring darkness, it becomes night, and all the beasts of the forest prowl.

Psa 104:21 The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God.

Psa 104:22 The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens.

Psa 104:23 Then man goes out to his work, to his labor until evening.

Psa 104:24 How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Psa 104:25 There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number-- living things both large and small.

Psa 104:26 There the ships that go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

Psa 104:27 These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time.

Psa 104:28 When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

Psa 104:29 When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.

Psa 104:30 When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

Psa 104:31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works--

Psa 104:32 he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

Psa 104:33 I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Psa 104:34 May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.

Psa 104:35 But may sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked be no more. Praise the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD.

Phi 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and or on earth and under the earth,

Phi 2:11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Isa 45:23 By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.

Rom 14:11 It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God."

Rev 5:13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

2. Omnipotence - God is all-powerful, limitless in ability, devoid of human PROPS.

2.1 God is mighty to save those who believe.

2.2 To believers He makes known..."what is the exceeding greatness of His power."

2.3 He has the power and will to keep the believer and nothing can remove us from the earth until it is the Lord's time.

2.4 There is nothing too hard for God.

2.5 There is nothing impossible with God.

Psa 147:5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

Psa 93:1 The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.

Isa 55:11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Heb 7:25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Eph 1:19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,

1Pe 1:5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Jer 32:27 "I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"

Job 42:2 "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.

Luk 1:37 For nothing is impossible with God."

1. Let me at this point give you an expanded translation of Dan 3:17:

"O King, supreme ruler of Babylon, if it is our God's desire to deliver us, He is infinitely able to rescue us from that fiery furnace; we know as a fact that our Jehovah God has the power to do whatever He chooses to do."

2. In the expression "He is infinitely able to rescue us", there is an allusion to the faith rest technique. These three young men are mature believers and they are ready to put their trust in Jehovah God.

3. Deliverance from the most powerful monarch of that time presented no problem to God and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew it.

3.1 They had His promise, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isa. 41:10).

4. These young men in their response to the King seemed to also recognize duly established secular authority; therefore, at the end of verse 17 in the KJV we find the words, "O king."

Dan 3:17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

4.1 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew the principles of divine institution number four; they acted in a respectful manner to their national leader.

5. However, as born-again believers who knew and obeyed the Word of God, they could not respond to this violation of human freedom -divine institution number one, Volition.

6. The State does not have the right to force religion on its citizens, just as the spiritual kingdom has no right to force its principles on the State.

6.1 Accordingly, these believers took a correct stand.

7. Now for a great statement of faith and verse eighteen:

Dan 3:18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

1. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego understood the faith rest drill.

2. Mixing the promises of God with faith, i.e., believing God and God's Word had become a way of life for these three young men. The three men are probably about 35 to 37 years of age.

3. Let me quickly review the *Doctrine of Faith Rest*.

3.1 It is possible to spend much time in the Word of God and fall apart in a time of great pressure and personal testing.

3.1.1 It behooves us to recognize this as fact.

3.2 Sudden disaster can bring a believer to a point where he cannot concentrate on doctrine, nor perceive that God is in charge.

3.3 It is therefore important for us to know that the difference between fear and courage is our ability to concentrate objectively while under pressure.

3.3.1 This means we must be able to recall previously learned doctrine.

3.4 The coward cannot think under pressure, while the man of courage can summon his senses and think of the solution rather than the problem.

3.5 Concentration is required to learn and apply doctrine under pressure.

3.5.1 Fear destroys the ability to concentrate.

3.6 Adversity, suffering and disaster all destroy concentration, both in learning and applying doctrine.

3.7 The suddenness of disaster causes panic and hinders the ability to make application of doctrine.

3.8 The normal reaction to disaster is fear and with fear comes panic however it is abnormal for the mature believer when fear is permitted to continue.

3.9 The Bible has many imperatives relating to fear.

Deu 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deu 31:7 Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their forefathers to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance.

Deu 31:8 The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Isa 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isa 41:11 "All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish.

Isa 41:12 Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all.

Isa 41:13 For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

3.10 Believers in all stages of spiritual growth can find themselves gripped with fear because of sudden disaster.

3.10.1 The loss of prosperity, loss of a loved one, loss of health, loss of work, experiencing critical illness, etc., can all produce fear.

3.10.2 Fear makes difficult the recall of Biblical promises.

3.11 The loss of things we deem valuable produces instant panic, and the mind must be stabilized before doctrine can be applied.

3.12. The solution to the fear problem is found in the use of the faith rest drill, i.e., by grasping a promise or several promises, we can stabilize our thinking and facilitate the proper "handling" of fear.

3.13 David uses the faith rest technique when he says he will slam his troubles on the Lord.

Psa 56:3 When I am afraid, I will trust (Batach- means to slam trouble down or it also has the meaning of hiding in a cave ) in you.

3.14 The fear of death is evil and the fear of death comes from the devil.

Psa 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Heb 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Heb 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

3.15 Fear and evil cover the land today, in the form of fears about a lack of energy, war, depression, revolution, destruction of the environment etc.

3.16 God has delivered us from fear and all forces which motivate fear.

3.17 Through the faith rest drill you can and should have a relaxed mental attitude toward all these things.

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