

SERMON: PRAISE THE LORD! I'M STILL HERE

Daniel 6:21-23

(21) Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. (22) My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before Him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. (23) Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

Introduction

The book of Daniel was written by the prophet who bore the same name. Nothing is known of the ancestry and early childhood of Daniel; although some scholars speculate that he was a descendant of King Hezekiah. At the approximate age of fifteen, in the year 605 B.C., he was among the first group of Jews forcibly carried to Babylon as captives. From that time on, his whole life was spent in exile. Daniel is the principle human figure in the book. The purpose of the book, however, is not to give an account of Daniel's life. Rather, the purpose of the writing is to show how God, by His providential guidance, miraculous intervention, and mighty power, controls the forces of nature and the history of nations.

The book of Daniel records two of the greatest accounts of supernatural deliverance found in the Bible: the preservation of the three Hebrew boys in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:1-10), and the story of Daniel in the lions' den.

Let's keep it realistic. The last two years have been very challenging. That's really an understatement. By the mere fact that you are listening to this sermon or reading this outline, proves that you are still here and God has preserved you. Despite Covid19, sickness, bereavement, disruption of classroom education, political polarization, racial unrest, and many other challenges, you are still here. We all have experienced our own personal lions' den, but thanks to God the lions have not devoured us. Praise the Lord! We are still here. As we celebrate Watch Night, which has unique meaning for us, let us not forget that in spite of it all God has protected and preserved us. This renews our faith and motivates us to "keep on keeping on."

Let's look again at the story of Daniel in the lions' den and extract again the great truths found in it.

Exposition

1. An Edifying Promotion.

(He Was Elevated From Prisoner to President.)

(He Was Promoted From Slave to Statesman.)

2. An Evil Plot Perpetrated by Envy and Sustained by Ego.

(The Only Criticism Was About His Prayer Life.)

3. An Enduring Practice of Prayer.

(He Kept on Praying Three Times A Day.)

(He Maintained His Righteous Routine.)

4. An Enormous Problem.

(The Persecution Led To The Lions' Den.)

5. An Explicit Example Of Providential Protection and Preservation.

(God Sent An Angel To Protect Him.)

(He Was Delivered Without A Scratch.)

Closing Thoughts

Daniel was freed from the den unharmed. He had no bite marks and no scratches. The evil plot failed. Just like Daniel, we can say, "Praise the Lord! I'm still here!" We are still here to worship another Watch Night service. Our fore-parents believed that God was no respecter of persons. They took the message of Acts 10:34 very seriously. They believed that what God did for Daniel, He can and will do for others. They saw themselves in this story. They believed one day they would be delivered and set free. Thus, they sang this spiritual:

"Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel?
Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, and why not every man?"

He delivered Daniel from the lions' den,
Jonah from the belly of the whale,
And the Hebrew children from the fiery furnace,
And why not every man?

Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel?
Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, and why not every man?"

To answer their rhetorical question posed in this spiritual: God will deliver everyone who will put all of their trust in Him. Sometimes He delivers on this side; sometimes He delivers on the "other side." Rest assured: He will deliver all believers!

Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

Related Scriptures

Daniel 6:1-28

Psalms 46:1

Hebrews 11:6

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