

"IS YOUR GOD ABLE?"

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In 605 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, besieged Jerusalem.
1. Took as captives some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles. **Dan. 1:3.**
 2. Among the captives was Daniel, "gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand" (Dan. 1:4).
 - a) Daniel also had "*understanding in all visions and dreams.*" **Dan.1:17-**
 - b) Daniel gains a position of honor in the kingdom as a result of interpreting a dream for the king which the astrologers could not interpret.
 - 1) King demanded these to tell him the dream and its meaning. Knew that if they were able to tell the meaning of the dream they would be able to tell the dream (**2:9**).
 - 2) When these not able to tell the dream and interpretation, decree was made that all the wise men to be killed. **2:12.**
- B. When Daniel and his companions are also about to be killed, Daniel asks for the time to seek the meaning of the dream. **2:16.** He makes the dream and its meaning known to Nebuchadnezzar, who says: "*There is a God in heaven who reveals secrets.*" **2:28.**
1. Interpretation of dream deals with the rise of four great earthly kingdoms and the setting up of a kingdom by the God of heaven (**2:44**).
 2. It would be mightier than any that had ever been before it!
- C. Daniel was given the rule over the province of Babylon (**2:48**). He sat in the Council chambers of the king. This position of authority continued throughout the reign of Nebuchadnezzar.
1. Daniel was also called to interpret a message (hand writing on the wall) for Belshazzar at the time of the overthrow of Babylon by the Medes and Persians (**ch. 5**).
 2. Daniel's wisdom and conduct resulted in a place of honor being given to him by Darius. "First president" over 120 princes and three presidents (**6:1-2**).
 - a) These rulers envied Daniel: Sought way to destroy him.
 - 1) No fault, "except we find it against him concerning the law of his God." (**6:5**).
 - 2) These had the king to declare a law that any man offering a petition to any god or man, except the king of the Medes and Persians, would be cast into a den of lions. (**6:7**).
 - b) Daniel went to his room; prayed three times a day at windows opened toward Jerusalem. (**6:10**).
 - 1) Rulers reported this to the king who reluctantly carried out his decree, causing Daniel to be cast into the den of lions.
 - 2) Next morning, king comes to lions den, calls out, "*Daniel, servant of the living God, is your God, whom you serve continually, able to deliver you from the lions?*" (**6:20**).

"IS YOUR GOD ABLE...?"

I. DANIEL WAS CONVINCED THAT GOD WANTED & WOULD RECEIVE HIS WORSHIP, AND SO HE DID NOT FEAR THE ROYAL DECREE.

- A. Three other young men (**Dan.3:17-18**). "*GOD IS ABLE to deliver us from the burning furnace, will deliver from your hand, if not, still not serve your gods, worship your idols.*"
- B. Our concept of God's power determines our way of life. If we think of Him as being weak, unable to deliver, then will not entrust life to Him.

What about us, TODAY?....

II. "IS YOUR GOD ABLE...?"

- A. **TO SUPPLY ALL OF YOUR NEEDS?**
1. One of the "lions" which consumes many is that of "anxiety," or "worry."
 - a) Anxiety robs life of both happiness and years!

- b) "Ulcers" and other physical problems are the result of anxiety. Strength is wasted.
2. It not only adversely affects the physical body but it's a sin! It's a "lack of faith! It is NOT TRUSTING IN GOD."
- a) It is also closely associated with covetousness, which is "idolatry!" **Eph.5:5**
- b) And the Lord teaches that our life to be free from covetousness, and that we are to be contented people in the service of God! **Heb.13:5-6**- *"Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," 6 so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?""*
3. Christian is not to let anxiety control his life. **Matt.6:25-34**.
- a) Anxiety does not change any situation for the better: Doesn't clothe, feed, or comfort, or ease pains, or tranquilize, or give hope!
- b) While it is true that some things are beyond the power of man to change, **ANXIETY HAS NEVER CHANGED ANYTHING**. And in most cases, it even prevents one from being able to think in a rational manner so as to deal with his problems.
4. Anxiety is overcome by faith in God's ability to know and provide all of needs.
- a) Paul had learned contentment (**Phil.4:11**). The knowledge that God is able to supply every need was a factor in developing this characteristic! **Phil.4:19**
- b. Contentment comes from knowledge that life is more than food, clothing.
5. A god that is unable to provide every need is too small, weak to be served.
- B. TO HEAR and ANSWER WHEN CALLED ON IN PRAYER?**
1. Illustrate with story of Elijah and the false prophets on Mt. Carmel. **I Kings 18:25-27**- *"So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it." 26 Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, "O Baal, answer us." But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made. 27 It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened."*
2. Jesus often taught His disciples to pray to the Father, urging them to understand that God would hear and answer their prayers.
- a) If Jesus was the Son of God, what He said concerning the Father's ability to hear and answer prayer must be true. (He cannot lie.) If His statements concerning prayer are not true then He is not the Son of God.
- b) No more practical test of faith. Do you call on Him, expect to be heard, answered?
3. The scriptures declare that **God "is able!" Rom.4:21**- *"And being fully assured that what He had promised, HE WAS ABLE ALSO TO PERFORM!"*
4. A god **unable to hear**, and **who cannot answer** is **too small for the needs of any man**.
- C. TO DELIVER FROM TEMPTATION, and the POWER OF THE DEVIL?**
1. As the three Hebrews declared, **"He is able..." Dan.3:17-18**- *"If it be so, our God whom we serve **IS ABLE TO DELIVER US** from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 "But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."*
2. Too often, men feel that they are powerless in their struggle against the devil and, with that defeatist attitude, just feel that there's **"NO NEED TO TRY."**
3. God expects man to resist the old devil, and even to **OVERCOME** him!
- a) SO MUCH is this expected that God has even given a Promise of assistance: *"One who is in you is greater than the one in the world" (1 Jno.4:4).*
- b) Can be *"more than conquerors!" (Rom.8:31).*

- c) And God is so gracious in wanting us to be “overcomers” that He “provides a way of escape” for us from every temptation! (**1 Cor.10:13**).
- d) Lord taught disciples to invoke the Lord when they were praying, for Him to, “*deliver us from the evil one!*” (**Mt.6:13**). He will not fail to do so.
- e) He “*knows how to deliver the godly from temptation!*” (**2 Pet.2:9**).
4. We should be so thankful that we have a God who is stronger, **and Who enables US to be stronger, than our adversary**. A god **unable to deliver** his people is *unworthy of their worship*.
- D. TO MAKE ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD?**
1. Man is not at the mercy of "fate." God's providential hand can bring good from evil! (see **Gen.50:19-20**- "*But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? 20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."*
 2. God is concerned about man's salvation. He could do nothing inconsistent with His purpose for man's good. **Jas.1:17**- "*Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow."*
- E. TO SAVE TO THE UTTERMOST?**
1. He is able to deliver from sin: Not only from its punishment, but also from the guilt, and from the pollution, and from the power of sin.
 2. Deliverance is through the work of our great High Priest: **Heb.7:25**- "*Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."*
 3. This work He does is for "*those who draw near to God through Him.*" That which prevents man from drawing nearer to God (sin) is removed by the blood of Christ.
- F. TO KEEP YOU FROM FALLING?**
1. **Jude 24**- "*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,"*
 2. He is able to preserve His people in a blameless state until the day of Christ. **1 Thess.5:23**- "*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our LJC!"*
 3. Is your God great enough to do this?
- G. TO RAISE YOUR BODY IN AN INCORRUPTIBLE STATE?**
1. **Heb.11:19**- "*He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type."*
 2. **Acts 26:8**- "*Why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead?"*
 3. Serving a God who is able to do this gives encouragement and hope even while we live in this "perishing tent."

CONCLUSION:

- A. Is your God able to provide for your EVERY NEED: both physically and spiritually? If not, then your god is too small. Why not let the God in Heaven guide you into the eternal heights of heaven?
- B. The God revealed in the Bible is able to do these things for those who serve Him.
- C. **Remember:** God is not only able to save the righteous, but He is also able to destroy the disobedient! **Matt. 10:28**- "*Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*