

## **HE (GOD) IS ABLE**

In Daniel Chapter 1-4 we read how Nebuchadnezzar (king of Babylon) defeated Jerusalem and took certain of the child of Israel, from the kings and of the princes seed. The king of Babylon wanted Israelites who had no blemish, but well favored, and skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge and understanding science, those that were able to stand in the king's palace and learn the language of the Chaldeans.

Now Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat and the wine which the king drank. You must understand the king was giving them meat and wine from his table so their countenance would be at its best, when they stood before him to serve. This was to be served (meat and wine) for three years before they were to stand before the king. But Daniel had made his mind up no to defile himself with this meat and wine. So he persuaded his overseer (prince of the Eunuchs) to let him and his companions to eat **Pulse** (a pottage made from meal and or plants) and drink water for 10 days then the overseer (Melzar) would check their conditions and make a decision whether to let them continue on this Pulse and water or meat and wine from the king's table.

We must understand God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with Melzar (prince of the Eunuchs). In other words, Melzar loved and trusted Daniel. Although he feared the king, he gave Daniel and his companions Pulse and water for 10 days and their countenance was fairer and they were fatter than those who ate meat and drank the wine.

So Daniel did not defile himself. Daniel became great in Babylon. The king made him ruler over the whole province, over the governors and all the wise men. You must remember how God had given Daniel wisdom and might and made known to unto him the king's dream. The king would not tell his dream to anyone, but wanted his wise men to tell him the dream and the meaning also. When they could not, he passed a decree to kill all the wise men.

### **The King's Dream and its meaning**

God Head- Babylon – Nebuchadnezzar-King  
Silver Breast and Arms – Medio-Persian Empire  
Brass Belly and Thighs – Grecian Empire  
Legs Iron, Feet Clay – Roman Empire

Stone cut without hands smote the image upon feet and legs and broke them to pieces and all the image became as chaff and the wind carried it away. Daniel 2:44 in the days of the king, shall God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but shall consume all kingdoms and never be destroyed. When Daniel told the king his dream and the meaning thereof, the king admitted that Daniel's God (the God that he served was a God of gods and a Lord of kings.)

The king made Daniel mighty, Daniel requested of the king to set his three companions over the affairs which he was to be in charge, and Daniel set in the gate of the king.

– **Jimmy Ferguson**

## GOD IS ABLE (PART 2)

Daniel, Chapter 1-4

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold and placed it in the province of Babylon. His instructions were when the music was heard everyone was to fall down and worship this golden image. Daniel's three friends (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) refused to worship this image so they were brought before the king. If you do not worship the image I have made you will be cast into a fiery furnace. The same hour; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? And these three Hebrew boys were not hesitate to answer the king on this matter.

(17) If it be our God whom we serve IS ABLE to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thy hand, o king. The king (in his rage) had the furnace turned up seven times hotter and cast these three Hebrew boys in the furnace. Well, well, there was a slight problem, for these men that brought Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego up to be cast into the furnace, when they opened the furnace door, they were consumed. You know the story!

The three Hebrew boys were cast into the furnace and God sent His angel to protect them. Their hairs were not singed, nor harm done to them, nor was there smell of smoke on their clothes. We serve an awesome God! In the midst of these boys trouble, they put their trust in God and God delivered them from great tragedy, that was sure to take place. The king promoted the three Hebrew brethren and made a decree that anyone that speak anything against the God that served shall be cut to pieces and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after sort. Do you have a problem from which you need deliverance? God is able and will deliver you if you put your trust in Him, just like these three Hebrew brethren trusted God and were delivered. Now we see Daniel setting in the gate, at least that's where we left him, and the three Hebrew boys taking over the affairs the king gave them (of the governors, etc..).

Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, his son Belshazzar and king Darius (Medo-Persian Empire) were those that Daniel served under, during their reign. Now Daniel was a friend of the kings because he would enquire of God and God would make known the dreams of the kings. Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar (Neb's son), king Darius (Median kingdom). After the Babylonian kingdom Daniel was in a high position and his colleagues were jealous so they went to the king and tricked the king into passing a decree that no one should ask petition of any God or man for 30 days or they would be cast into a den of lions. Now his so-called friends knew that Daniel prayed with his window open on his knees three times each day. Facing Jerusalem praying three times each day to the Almighty God of Heaven, so they came and brought Daniel before King Darius. Now King Darius would not go back on the decree, although he liked Daniel, he would not make an exception. So into the lion's den Daniel went.

The next morning King Darius came near the lion's den and with a quivering voice (almost crying) he said, "O Daniel, servant of the Living God, is thy God whom thou servest continually able to deliver thee from lions?" Daniel said, "My God has sent His angel and shut the lion's mouth that they have not hurt me."

You know the story, Daniel was taken up from the lion's den and his accusers and their families (children and wives) were cast into the lion's den and the lions broke them into pieces. King Darius also made a decree that everyone throughout the kingdom tremble and fear before the God of Daniel; for He is the Living God, and steadfast for ever. His kingdom shall not be destroyed and His dominion shall even be until the end.

God delivered Daniel from those vicious lions and He can deliver you from this present world of sin and place you in the kingdom of His Dear Son, (Col. 1:13).

*--Jimmy Ferguson*

## GOD IS ABLE (Part 3)

Noah - (Genesis, chapters 6-9) God was angry because man had become so corrupt, every thought of man was continually evil. About 10 generations from Adam. Yes, the same Adam that walked with God in the cool of the day! How could man fall soooooo farrrrrrr soooooooooo soonnnnnnn?

But God found Noah a preacher of righteousness! God said unto Noah (Genesis 6:18) "With thee I will establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, thy sons, thy wife and thy sons wives with thee."

Noah moved with fear (Hebrews 11:7) and did all things according as God had commanded him. Now Noah was only about 500 years old when God gave him the blueprint of the ark. I'm sure he had pains and not so good days, just like we do. But he put his trust in the Almighty God, worked about 100 years preparing the ark and warning the people (his kinsmen) as he worked. Noah knew that God was going to bring a flood upon the earth and that he and his sons and their wives would be spared because what God has said He is able to perform (Romans 4:2).

Do you have a water problem? God can deliver you from any hot water you might be in! Just put your trust in Him, and He will lead you, just like He did Noah! Follow his blueprint and you will be successful.

In Judges chapters 6 and 7, we read about a man by the name of Gideon. Now the Lord delivered Israel into the hands of the Midianites because of their evil. Now the Midianites prevailed against Israel seven years. They would come up whenever they felt the urge and carry off all that Israel had sheep, ox, ass, grain and would keep Israel in poverty. Israel realized the error of their way and cried unto the Lord, and the Lord sent Gideon to deliver them. Now God was the ONE who would deliver His people but HE used Gideon in the same manner as He used Moses, David, Joshua, Samson etc.

Gideon called his neighbors together to help in the battle, for the Midianites, the Amalekites and their allies from the east were come up to carry away and destroy as they had been doing the past seven years.

Now when Gideon pitched their tents ready for battle, God told him you have too many soldiers, for Gideon had 32,000.

Although the Midianites and their allies were as grasshoppers (a multitude), God told Gideon I want Israel to know that I delivered them, and not they themselves.

God said Gideon tell everyone who is afraid they may take leave and 22,000 went home. God said Gideon you have too many men (10,000 against this great multitude that were as thick as grasshoppers) could have been Gideon's thought.

So God told Gideon bring these men down into the water and I will try them for thee there. Now Gideon those who lap water from his hands like a dog, set himself, and those who drink upon his knees, set by himself. Those who lapped water from their hands like a dog were 300; God said let those who drink water from their knees, 9,700, go, I will give you victory with these 300 men. You know the story! Gideon and his 300 surrounded their enemy with trumpets blowing and their lamps shining, crying out, the sword of the Lord and of Gideon, the enemy began killing each other and fleeing the great army of Gideon.

God saved Gideon and his people because Gideon obeyed God. God can save you if you just obey His word. (Luke 19:10). "The son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost." You don't need a large number when you are on the Lord's side.

----*Jimmy Ferguson*

## GOD IS ABLE (PART 4)

Ezekiel was sent to Israel by God to speak unto them the word of the Lord. And the Lord God told Ezekiel *now they may not listen yet shall they know there has been a prophet among them*. Ezekiel chapter 37: 1, 3-10 – Ezekiel said, “ The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of dry bones, [3] And he ( the Lord) said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest. [4] Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. [5] Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: [6] And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord.[7] So I (Ezekiel) prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. [8] And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them above; but there was no breath in them. [9] Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. [10] So I (Ezekiel) prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army.”

These bones were the whole house of Israel and they were dry, their bones were very dry, their hope lost. When things seem bleak and hopeless in our lives, we need to hold a little tighter to God’s unchanging hand. For he is our **HOPE, OUR PEACE, AND OUR STRENGTH AND STAY.**

When these old bones of ours and our forefathers are dry, God will make them come forth just as He showed His servant Ezekiel.

John 5:21 Jesus said,” The hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the son of God: and they shall live.”

In I Thessalonians 4:16-18 “For the Lord himself shall descend from Heaves with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: [17] Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. [18] Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

I wish everyone could be comforted with these words but these words only apply to those who love and serve the Lord (Christians). Those who are on the Chief Shepherd’s right-hand side. Those on the left-hand side (sinners) will hear the Master say depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

There is a world of difference between come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation on the world or Depart!

Paul knew God’s ability. Although he suffered greatly during his lifetime he always stood firm on the gospel. (I Timothy 1:12) “For I knew whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I committed unto him against that day.”

Paul also writes in II Timothy 4:7-8 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. [8] Henceforth (because of this) there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, will give me that day; and not unto me only but to all them that love His appearing.”

Can you say the same as Paul? If Jesus comes at this very moment, would you love to see Him? Let us consider Moses who chose to suffer with God’s people than to be prince of Egypt,

to be called son of Pharaoh's daughter. Read Exodus; read Hebrews 11:23-29 to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Moses forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Moses boldly performed his mission that God gave him because he knew God was able to perform all the mighty works that He promised.

God is able to wash you in the blood of his Son and make you white as snow. Though your sins be as scarlet, He can wash them and you will be as white as snow.

Would you obey God's word and become a child of the King this very day?

Hear the gospel – Romans 10:17

Believe the gospel – Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins – Luke 13:3

Confess Christ to be God's only Begotten Son – Matthew 10:32

Be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins – Acts 2:38.

*---- Jimmy Ferguson*