

There Is A God

- *Daniel 2:16-28*

- It is wonderful to see each of you here this morning, and what a glorious day to worship the Lord, Amen?
- God has blessed us in recent days & I think it is good to be reminded of that from time to time, especially when we make our way to the Lord's House.
 - You might have come this morning for a handful of different reasons. But I hope that you have come to do at least 2 different things.
 - Listen to the Lord this morning & allow Him to speak to your heart.
 -) This is so critical that we take time to slow down, be quiet, and prayerfully ask the Lord to speak to our hearts & open up our spiritual ears.
 -) But as important as this step is, if we don't do the next, it will count for nothing.
 - Be obedient to God.
 -) You go to work to do the business of your employer, right?
 -) You go to the store to do your own business.
 -) But when you come to the Lord's House, it's time we be about His business.
- In our scripture this morning, Daniel has been called to reveal to King Nebuchadnezzar the interpretation of his dream.
 - This dream has been a bother to the King, he has assembled his best men together, but nothing has yet to be resolved.
 - But Daniel is sent for to help the King & to discover the meaning of this dream.
 - Even at a young age, Daniel already had a powerful witness to those around him.
 - So they come to Daniel & ask for his help in interpreting the King's dream.
 - Daniel replies, "Let me go home to my friends and we will pray that God will show me the meaning."
 - So Daniel begins to pray & seek the face of God & through Daniel's prayer, God reveals to Him the mystery of this dream.
 - As Daniel requests to come before the King, he makes this statement, "The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; **But there is a God in heaven** that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days."
 - The Bible records that Daniel went on to receive many great gifts & became ruler over Babylon.
- But I want us to think about the small, but significant, statement that Daniel made to the King. "But there is a God in Heaven." What a powerful statement!
 - Regardless of what you are going through this morning, you can be encouraged. Why? Because there is a God in Heaven.
 - Some of the things you are facing today are hard, "But there is a God in Heaven."
 - Even this morning if you come & your heart is broken, things around you are a mess, aren't you glad to know that, "There is a God in Heaven?"
 - Even if you are here this morning and you are unsaved, you don't know Jesus as your Personal Savior, you can find comfort today in that "There is a God in Heaven", Who loves you, Who cares for you, Who gave His Only Son so that you could be saved.
- You say, "But Pastor, what does this mean for me?"

- **There have been many throughout the years who have trusted & believed that there was a God in Heaven who would hear their prayers ... and God moved & did great things b/c of their faith in Him.**

1. Moses At The Red Sea (Exodus 14)

- God's people had been held in bondage for years & had sought to be freed. Finally, God orchestrated a plan for Moses to go & command Pharaoh to let God's people go.
- Of course, it took several awful & terrible plagues for Pharaoh to finally get to the point that he was willing to free God's people.
- As they journeyed on to their freedom, they came upon a massive body of water called the Red Sea.
- With the water in front of them & the sound of Pharaoh's army behind them, the people quickly went to a state of panic & complaining.
 - o "Moses, have you just brought us this far so that we might be killed? We should have just remained slaves in Egypt!"
- And as Moses and the people of God faced their greatest fears with their backs against the wall, Moses was reminded that there was a God in Heaven who had delivered them before & had the power to do it again.
- And so Moses cried out to the Lord for deliverance yet again, and God would do something miraculous in their lives as He parted the waters & the Israelites walked across on dry ground only to have Pharaoh's army swallowed up in those same waters.
- As the people saw the miracle that had just taken place, their cries of complaints quickly changed to understanding the power & the awesomeness of the God that they served.
- In the years to come, the remembrance of this event would continue to remind them that there is a God in Heaven who is able to deliver them from any trial that would come their way.
- Church, some of you are facing the rough waters today. Your back is against the wall, the enemy is on the attack, and as you sit here this morning, the enemy has convinced you that there is no way out.
- But may I remind you this morning that there is STILL a God in Heaven who will hear your cry today.
 - o Isaiah 43:1-3 – "Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:"

2. 3 Hebrew Boys Before Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3)

- You know the story well, but in this passage we have 3 young men who have committed themselves to God & they have determined to serve only God all the days of their life.
 - o Now making commitments is one thing, living up to those commitments we all know is something completely different.
 - o But these young men had made a covenant to God that they were willing to live, or die by.
- King Nebuchadnezzar has made this golden statue, some 95 feet in height & had commanded all the people in the land to come & bow down.
- And these young men found out the significance of standing for God ... even when you stand alone.
- Nebuchadnezzar called these young men before him & gave them one more chance to bow down, but listen to their reply.
 - o Daniel 3:16-18 – "O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. 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. 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.”

- These men were bound & thrown into the fire, only to find that the very thing that bound them would be the thing God used to set them free.
- Some of you are either facing the fire this morning or you are in the midst of it right now. Perhaps you see the fire as your end, but perhaps God will use this fire to set you free.
 - o Freedom is not having a life free of troubles. Freedom is knowing that whatever may come your way, there is a God in Heaven who is in complete control & will protect you & keep you safe.

3. Peter In Prison (Acts 12)

- Let me set the scene for you quickly. Many of those who have been proclaiming & preaching Christ are now finding themselves facing opposition at the expense of King Herod.
- Herod has already killed James with his sword & now Paul has been cast into prison & the early believers fear the same result for Peter.
- But the interesting thing about this story is how God moved. In our 2 other illustrations, the men of God have cried out to God, but look if you will in verses 5-6 – “Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.”
- Peter is probably the only believer in town that night that got any rest.
 - o The Bible tells us that Peter got him a spot on the floor, still chained to 2 guards, and went to sleep not concerned about what the future would hold.
 - o But church, listen to this. Don’t lose the significance of what I am about to say.
 - o Though Peter was the one enduring the hardship, it was the church who went before God on his behalf, and of course God heard their prayer & delivered him.
- Now, is it really important that God’s people pray for one another? Does it make a difference in God’s eyes when we realize that there is a God in Heaven who can not only change our situation, but can meet the needs of other believers? And the answer is YES!
 - o Does it help those in the hospital when we pray for God’s healing? You better believe it does.
 - o Does it make a difference to the one who does not know Christ that we pray for their salvation? Ask the many who have trusted in Christ in part b/ of the years of prayers by others.