

God is Able!
Daniel 6:19-20
Counter Culture

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. 20 And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

When I was a Kid – I thought my dad was superman

A)My Dad was Strong – good looking – great athlete.

B)I felt protected when he was around – And there wasn't anyone that I didn't think my Dad could take down!

C)Definitely did the My Dad is better than your dad thing with my friends

1)And even though – they would argue for their dads I knew they knew deep down – My dad was the MAN!

D)In my mind there was nothing that my Dad was not good at.

That all changed when I was about 12 years old – and my dad asked me to help him fix the car!

A)It didn't take long for me to discover – My dad had no clue – Came to cars – Trial and error

B)Heavy on the error!!! – Now I did admire the effort

C)But that day I definitely discovered my Dad is Fallible. More Tim Taylor than Clark Kent –

1)Brakes – I think this is it - Think? – take moms car - Huge - Station Wagon -

D)Dad – Skylark Coup – Racing Stripe – cool
What does that have to do with our study today?

I think a lot of us come into Christianity like a little Child – My God is Superman!

A)He can do anything – Jesus is the Man

B)But then we reach a point – Maybe it is the first time God doesn't take care of something – the way we thought he would. –

C)We start to Doubt – Maybe He doesn't have it all together

1)We think God needs our help – We might not verbally say that but it is seen in our actions

D)Because of the many things in our lives that we still hold onto the reigns

1)Too many things – God has to pry our fingers off of in order for Him to work.

Well Today in our final study – I want us to consider the question – that King Darius – Asked Daniel – the morning after – Daniel's Night in the Lions Den.

A)Recall the story – King Darius - gets tricked into making a stupid law.

B)Governors – Satraps – Jealous of Daniel - They get wind that Darius was thinking of making Daniel #2 1)They didn't want him being 2nd in Command

C)Find a way to bring him down!- Nothing in Character – or Political Career.

1)So they go after his Religion. Oh to be that Predictable. – His Faith – Weak spot

D)They Appeal to Darius' Ego - Pride is the easiest thing to manipulate in a human being.

E)They Appeal to King Darius' Pride – How would you like to be God for a month.

1)30 days no petitions except to you!

Think that through - for a minute.

A)Hey John everything in the company runs through you.

B)Patty in accounting needs Paper clips – you bro!

1)Vacation days – You –

C)Darius – thinks this sounds like a good idea.

They know Daniel is not going to stop praying

A)Sure enough right after it happens – He is praying

B)It is the law – Can't be reversed – So you have to carry this out –

1)Darius spends a whole day trying to figure out how to change this.

C)But He Can't – So Daniel is cast in - That night Darius can't sleep – early morning runs to the tomb.

D)Daniel was your God Able to deliver you from the Lions?

That is the question we want to consider today and use it as a spring board for our time in the word

A)Is your God Able? What is God able to do?

B)The Bible answers that question in several places for us.

C) First note Daniel's response: ²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! ²² My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."

This isn't the first Lions Den that Daniel has had to face.

A)He is now over 84 yrs old – taken from home land at 14 – and brought to Babylon.

B)Elite group of young kids – 3 year all expenses paid college Education

C)That included a food Budget – straight from the palace – we're talking the Kings Delicacies – eat like Kings

D)But we read in Daniel 1 – Daniel Purposed in his heart to not eat the Kings – Delicacies

1)Veggie Diet – why – He believed that God was Able to sustain Him

D)And God did – He and his friends were more fit!

In Daniel Ch.2 Facing being put to death because the wise men couldn't tell Nebuchadnezzar his dream

ADaniel brought forth – Nebuchadnezzar asked are you ABLE?

B)Daniel said – Not me but my God is ABLE....

C)Rubs off on his friends -CH. 2 Faced with the fiery Furnace –

1) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - Said "our God is ABLE to Deliver us"

Daniel – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego– Believed in the power of their God – He was able

A)What about you and me ?

B)What are you dealing with today – What obstacle – what road block – what situation?

C)**Is God Able?** Consider some scenarios
Do you feel like you are in the dark?

D)Recall that scene in Matthew 9:27 two blind men..... Come up to Jesus – Have mercy on us!

Matthew 9:28-30

And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am ABLE to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

²⁹ Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." ³⁰ And their eyes were opened.

Some of you might feel blind in a situation tonight

A)Lord I can't see – can't discern what you are doing

B)Is He able to open your eyes? Is He able to give that much needed Discernment? – YES

C)**Quit struggling to figure it out** – make it work

Say Jesus I believe that you are ABLE –

1)Lead me – open my eyes – make it clear

D) He might tell you to walk – take one step at a time AND as you go – your eyes will be opened

That is what God did with Abraham – promised a Child A nation (Old dude) Waited Decades for the fulfillment

A)Even though – Abraham had his moments where his faith wavered – He is a model – of trust

B)He steps out believing that God is Able!!!!

Romans 4:20-21

“He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also ABLE to perform.”

B) I have to admit sometimes I feel like that Dad with the Demon Possessed son-

1) Jesus ask – Do you believe I am Able.....

C) Lord I believe but help my unbelief.

1) My doubt is usually not in God’s ability but in His willingness –

D) Two Friends – How doing – Fantastic!!!!

1) Rarely feel that way – I am too real!

E) I struggle NOT with God being Able – but being willing! –

1) Especially when waiting – never decades

Is God willing?

Romans 8:31-32

“If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” ESV

He loves us so much – He is for us!!!!

Don’t lose heart – **Delays are not Denials**

Looking for stability in your walk or in a situation?

Romans 16:25

“Now to Him who is ABLE to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ.”

Establish = to fix – Feel broken?

Establish = to set – like cement.....

Establish = to place firmly - Feel like wandering.....

In Need of extra strength for the task ahead of you?

2 Corinthians 9:8

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”

A) Grace – unmerited Favor – Strength for the task ahead –

B) Abound = to exceed a fixed number of measure,

C) Niagara Falls – Pic – “There is always more to follow!”

In need of a miracle? IMPOSSIBLE - Something so huge – can’t see a way out? Ephesians 3:20-21 “Now to Him who is ABLE to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

HE is able to work in a way that goes beyond what you could even comprehend – fathom

A) He is able to do things – that is

Analogy

Worried about something you have invested time and heart into is going to fall apart?

2 Timothy 1:12

“I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is ABLE to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”

I don’t have to worry about this – I don’t need to hold this together? –

A) He is able – Lord I am clinging to you.

B) He has got it in his Nail Scarred hands!

Struggling with temptation? He is Able Hebrews 2:18

“For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is ABLE to aid those who are tempted.”

Aid = Secure:

Afraid you are not going to make it in the Christian life. Afraid of falling away and being lost?

Jude 24 **“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.”**

A) Not only is He able to keep you from falling –

B)He is able to Present you – Finished Complete
– Author and the finisher

C)His Presence His glory with exceeding Joy

Is there someone in your life you think is impossible to get Saved? Hebrews 7:25

“Therefore He is also ABLE to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

A)Last person in the World – Denise’s Dad –

B)That dude you work with so prideful, arrogant

1)Persona – all together – can’t touch this

Note God did not deliver Daniel from the Lions den – He delivered him thru the Lions den.

A)Daniel was not alone in His lion’s Den – God was with Him.

B)We are not Alone either – Jesus is with us – never leave us or forsake –

1)Really only One Lion – Jesus – the Lion of the tribe of Judah –

C) Who beat back the Lions that surrounded him

Declawed that Lion Satan!

D)Because He was victorious – He is ABLE to deliver us

E)Because He loved us enough to die for us – HE WILL DELIVER US

Listen, When You believe that Your God is ABLE

A)You pray – you cry out to Him!

B) You rest – you trust.

1) You are Joyful – at peace

2)You are hopeful!

If your God is NOT able!

A)You worry!

B)You scheme – plot/ you strategize

C)You fear –

D)You complain

E)You are not a rest at all!

IS YOUR GOD ABLE?