

Some People
who
Followed God

Daniel & His 3 Friends
Part I



OUR DAILY BREAD

Junior Edition

7-22-07



SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW:

God is perfect. He is Holy. We are all sinners. ***For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.***

(Romans 3:23a KJB)

None of us could ever make ourselves perfect or holy to be accepted by God. But God loves us all so much, that He gave His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to go to the cross and pay the penalty for our sins IN FULL, ONCE and FOR ALL. Jesus died and rose again. Because of the Lord Jesus Christ, God can now make us holy and acceptable to Himself. ***For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*** (1 Peter 3:18 KJB)

Jesus Christ is our ONLY WAY to God and heaven.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

(John 14:6 KJB)

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. (Acts 16:31 KJB)

Without Jesus Christ, you can NEVER be accepted by God or go to heaven. When you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God makes you His child. When you leave this world, you will spend all of eternity with Him! ***But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*** (John 1:12 KJB) While you are still here on earth, learn His beautiful Word. Believe it and obey it, so you can enjoy all God has done for you.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

(Colossians 3:16a KJB)

How many people KNOW YOU REALLY WELL? I mean REALLY well? You may say:



“My PARENTS know me really well!

or

“My BROTHERS & SISTERS do too!”

or

“My BEST FRIEND knows me well!”

Well, you may be RIGHT! And because they know you really well, they can many times be a great help to you when you need someone to help you. But guess what! None of these people KNOW YOU PERFECTLY! None of these people know EVERYTHING there is to know about you. None of these people know your every thought or feeling or needs. None of these people are ALL KNOWING & ALL POWERFUL! And because of that none of these people can help you

ALL THE TIME!

But there IS Someone who knows EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU! And THAT Person is GOD!

“O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known *me*.

Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted *with* all my ways.

For *there is* not a word, in my tongue, *but*, lo,
O LORD, thou knowest it altogether."

Psalms 139:1-4 KJB

God knows your deepest thoughts & fears! God knows EXACTLY what you need EVERY SECOND of your life! God knows what is BEST for you - EVERY SECOND of your life! Also, God is ALL POWERFUL & ALWAYS RIGHT! Because of that, He is the ONLY ONE who can help you

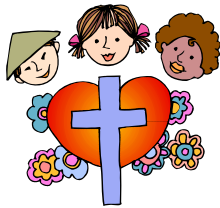
ALL THE TIME!
ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF GREAT TROUBLE WHEN
NO ONE ELSE CAN HELP YOU!

Because of that, we would be VERY WISE to be
FOLLOWERS OF GOD!

God ALWAYS leads us to do what is the VERY
BEST & RIGHT THING for us to do - ALWAYS,
NO MATTER WHAT!

1Corinthians 10:13 KJB

Here are the kinds of plans God has for ALL who
belong to Him:



"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

And listen to THIS promise from God:
"But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for

them that love him." 1Corinthians 2:9 KJB

On our own, our human eyes, ears, & mind can NEVER know all the wonderful things that God has prepared for His own who love Him! But look at this - there IS a way that God's children CAN know the wonderful things God has prepared for us:

"But God hath revealed *them* to us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." 1Corinthians 2:10 KJB

So OPEN YOUR BIBLES & let GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT show you the wonderful PLANS GOD HAS for YOU!



But REMEMBER, those of God's children who DO NOT OPEN THEIR BIBLES & who DO NOT OBEY & FOLLOW GOD will MISS OUT KNOWING ALL THESE THINGS! YES! They will ALWAYS be His children, but SADLY, they'll miss out on ENJOYING their relationship with GOD their Father! They'll miss out on being able to be BRAVE & UNFEARFUL when TROUBLE COMES THEIR WAY! We hope that YOU do NOT MISS OUT!

Last week began to learn about 4 young men - Daniel & His 3 friends - who DID NOT MISS OUT on God's wonderful plans for them. These 4 young men were in a TERRIBLE SITUATION but continued to FOLLOW GOD NO MATTER WHAT! God

had allowed them to be CAPTURED by an enemy king. God had allowed them to be taken AWAY from their home & their families. But REMEMBER! No matter WHAT God allows in our lives, GOD IS NEVER WRONG! He is ALWAYS RIGHT! God is ALWAYS READY TO HELP US the VERY INSTANT that we turn to Him for help! And that is JUST what God did for these 3 young men who LOVED GOD & OBEYED GOD even in the most **FRIGHTENING SITUATIONS!**

We will see how God helped these 4 young men!

The last thing we learned about these 4 young men was that when they were captured, the king wanted them to forget EVERYTHING about their past life. He ESPECIALLY wanted them to FORGET THEIR GOD whom they loved & served. You see, the king who captured them was a PAGAN king. Instead of believing in the ONE TRUE GOD - THE LORD, this king believed in all kinds of “man made gods”. And so, he wanted these young men to FORGET THEIR GOD & serve him & his gods instead. He did all kinds of things to get them to do this. One of the things He did was to have



the NAMES of these 4 boys
CHANGED!

As you read the changes, you'll see what this evil king was up to in trying to get these 4 boys to
STOP FOLLOWING THEIR GOD

&

FOLLOW HIM & HIS gods INSTEAD!

Today we will look at Daniel's name change.
Daniel's Hebrew name means **GOD IS MY JUDGE!**
But his name was changed to **BELTESHAZZAR!** The name Belteshazzar means **PROTECT HIS LIFE.**
Well, now that doesn't sound too bad, does it?
HOWEVER, as we look **CLOSER** at this **NEW NAME,** we see something that **IS BAD** in it! In fact, it is **EVIL!** The first part of the new name that Daniel was given was **BEL.** And that name **BEL** was the name of one of the



PAGAN gods that the evil king worshipped!

The name "Daniel" means **GOD IS MY JUDGE!**
And Daniel **BELIEVED** what his name means!
Daniel looked to the **LORD** to **RULE & PROTECT HIS LIFE!** But now, that evil king wanted Daniel to forget God. He wanted Daniel to look to the idol of the god named **BEL** - a man-made statue - to protect his life! That new name meant - **BEL, PROTECT HIS LIFE!** Well, guess what **GOD** said about the power of **BEL** & all the other idol gods to protect anything:

They (the gods) *are all vanity*; and their works *are nothing*; their molten images *are* wind and confusion." Isaiah 41:29 KJB

Now Daniel KNEW what God said about these gods & idols. And Daniel KNEW what God said about Himself! And so even though Daniel & his friends could NOT run away from this evil king, they KNEW that God would take care of them even in this BAD SITUATION! Here is one of the PROMISES of God that Daniel & his 3 friends KNEW & BELIEVED while they were in this terrible place. (And they were there MANY, MANY YEARS!) "Fear thou not; for I *am* with



thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; ye, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isaiah 41:10 KJB

And Daniel KNEW from all his personal experiences with God that God DOES WHATEVER HE PROMISES! That is WHY Daniel & his 3 friends CONTINUED TO FOLLOW GOD even in all their troubles!

Daniel also knew THIS promise from God to His people of Israel! Isaiah 41:13 KJB

"...they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee."

If you are God's child, He promises to help YOU TOO!

BIBLE STUDY

PSALMS 119

It is VERY IMPORTANT to KNOW Gods promises. Some people can even MEMORIZE scriptures. That is very good. But just KNOWING God's Word is NOT ENOUGH - especially when BAD THINGS HAPPEN! We must add BELIEVING & OBEYING God's Word in order to be STRONG & COURAGEOUS like Daniel & his 3 friends were when they were TRAPPED for many years in that evil pagan kingdom. Only when we KNOW, BELIEVE & OBEY God's Word will we be able to FOLLOW GOD & EXPERIENCE HIS GREAT LOVE & FAITHFULNESS to us.

Carefully read Psalms 119. It is a very long Psalm, so TAKE YOUR TIME! Ask God to help you understand what you are reading. God promises that if we REALLY want to know & believe & obey His Word, He will help us to understand it. This Psalm was written by another man who had been captured by evil people. This man had seen & experienced terrible things. He wrote this Psalm right while he was in all this trouble. As you read this Psalm, see if you can guess what is the ONE THING that helped him during that time.

Here are 2 verses from Psalm 119 that you can pray BEFORE you read it! You can say "Father, in Jesus Name"

"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" (The law = God's WORD.) Psalms 119:18 KJB

"Make me to understand the way of thy precepts (God's Word) so shall I talk of thy wondrous works."

Psalms 119:27 KJB

GRACE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John A. Ricci

Sunday Morning Service

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Transportation Service ~ Call 24 hours Prior

Weekly Services

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:30 P.M.

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:00-7:20 P.M.

Communion Service

First Sunday of Every Month

Children's Prep School (Ages 5-14) & Mother's Room

Available for Every Service

Email

info@gracecfellowship.org

From I-95

- RI Exit #22; *Left* at split to **Rt. 6 W.**
- Take Killingly St (Rt. 128) Exit; *Right* off Exit.
- Take Killingly to end; *Right* on Manton Ave; cross bridge.
- Turn *Left* at light (CVS on corner), and then bear *Left* at the split. You are now on Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1 mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Left*.

From Rt. 146

- Mineral Spring Ave Exit in Providence.
- From **146 N** turn *Left* off Exit; from **146 S** turn *Right*.
- Take Mineral Spring to end and stay *Left* around the rotary (pass North Providence Town Hall).
- Take next *Right* onto Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1½ mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Right*.



Grace Christian Fellowship

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