**WHAT MADE NOAH, DANIEL, AND JOB RIGHTEOUS (part 1)?**

When we read in **Ezekiel chapter 14 verses 12-13** we see that when there is persistent unfaithfulness in a land, God will extend His hand against it. When you have persistent unfaithfulness and the Lord’s hand is against a land, in verse 14 the scriptures says:

***“Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, they would only deliver themselves by their own righteousness,” says the Lord God.***

A similar statement is made in **verses 19-20** of the same chapter.

I want us to consider the reasons why God would place such a high honor on Noah, Daniel, and Job.

**WHY DOES GOD MENTION THESE THREE MEN?**

**All were faithful**

* Noah (**Genesis 6:5-9**)
* Daniel (**Daniel 1:8-21**) – taken into captivity
* Job (**Job 1:1-8**)

**All were obedient**

* Noah (**Genesis 6:22**) – 100 years of building the ark
* Daniel (**Daniel 6:10-11**) – even having to defy the King’s decree
* Job (**Job 1:20-22**) – lost animals, servants, and his children

**All were in the minority – Matthew 7:13-14, 20:16, 22:14**

* Noah (**1 Peter 3:20-22**) – eight out of millions
* Daniel (**Daniel 6:11-15**) – the only one recorded who defied the decree
* Job (**Job 19:13-22**) – even close friends turned on him

**CLOSING**

**Some New Testament References to Righteousness**

* **Ephesians 6:14**
* **1 Timothy 6:11-16**
* **2 Timothy 2:22, 3:16, 4:8**
* **Hebrews 11:7**

We Christians are told to pursue righteousness and to be striving to live righteous before Him. We are living in times where we see persistent unfaithfulness to God all around us. We know how the Lord feels about this and that nothing escapes His notice. But we can see in the examples of Noah, Daniel, and Job that if we pursue living righteously, it does not matter what is going on around us. We can be faithful to Him and look forward to an eternal reward.

For those who need to become Christians this morning, consider **Matthew 6:33-34**. If you want to seek the righteousness of God you must seek first the Kingdom of God. You need to baptized to wash away your sins so He can add you to His Kingdom (**Acts 2:37-38, 40-41, 47**)!

***DO THIS NOW! This can happen to you right now!***

**WHAT MADE NOAH, DANIEL, AND JOB RIGHTEOUS (part 2)?**

I would like us to continue our study of why God considered Noah, Daniel, and Job to be righteous (**Ezekiel 14:12-14, 19-20**).

**All endured for the Lord**

* Noah (**Genesis 5:32, 7:11, 8:13-14, 2 Peter 2:5**)
* Daniel (**Daniel 1:1-6, 6:16-17, 7:15, 28, 8:27, 10:1-3**)
* Job (**James 5:10-11**)

**All humbled themselves to God’s will**

* Noah (**Hebrews 11:7**)
* Daniel (**Daniel 9:1-19**)
* Job (**Job 42:1-6**)

**All were loved by God**

* Noah (**Genesis 6:8-9**)
* Daniel [**Daniel 9:23, 10:11, 19** (greatly loved ESV)]
* Job (**Job 2:3, 42:7-17**)

**CLOSING**

***For those of us who are members of the Oak Ridge church of Christ, would God say that we are living righteously like the three men we have talked about?***

***Do we assemble and worship for 3 hours on Sundays and 1 hour on Wednesdays and then proceed to simply blend in with the world the other hours of the week?***

Jesus says we are to be the light of the world (**Matthew 5:14-16**). Are we letting the light of Jesus shine on our friends, our classmates, our co-workers, and our families? Do they see Jesus in us? If they do not see Him in us, they will have no reason to want to be saved by Him from their sins.

If you are not a Christian this morning, please consider this. ***If God commanded Noah, Daniel, or Job to do something, do you think they would do it?***

God now commands all to believe His Son, be willing to confess His name before men, repent of our sins, be baptized to wash away those sins, and then live righteously for Him. Obedience in baptism is how one becomes a Christian. A Christian is one who has faithfully and obediently humbled themself to God and Jesus Christ. Because of this they become righteous and holy in God’s sight (**2 Peter 3:14, Revelation 7:14**).

***If you are not a Christian, wouldn’t it be nice to be cleansed of your sins and then have a life of righteousness to live for Jesus Christ? Why not come to Him now?***

If we can help you know, please come forward while we stand and sing.