

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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What Is In Your Name?

(Jerry Fite)

What comes to your mind when I say, “Moses” or “Samuel”? What about, “Noah”, “Daniel” or “Job”? Grouping the names “Moses” and “Samuel” together, what characteristic do they have in common? What do “Noah”, “Daniel”, and “Job” share together when their names are mentioned?

In the later days of the kingdom of Judah, Jeremiah used Moses and Samuel in a specific way. Jeremiah reports, “*Then said Jehovah unto me, ‘Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind would not be toward this people; cast them out of my sight, and let them to forth’*” (Jeremiah 15:1). Jeremiah points to the intercession work of Moses and Samuel which they did respectively on behalf of God’s people.

Moses came down from the mountain with the two tables of stone to find God’s people engaged in idolatry. God’s hot wrath revealed from above, and the eating, drinking and playing idolaters frolicking below found an appealing Moses in between. Moses intercedes for his people that they would not be consumed from the face of earth. God hears his prayer and spares the people for His glory (Exodus 32:7-14).

Samuel, later in Jewish history, appeals to God in Mizpah on behalf of God’s people. Idolatry had raised its ugly head again. Samuel offers sacrifice, prayer with fasting unto God; while exhorting God’s people to repentance with its demands to serve God only. In answer to Samuel’s intercession, the Philistines are scattered from Mizpah in thunderous defeat (*I Samuel 7:3-11*).

Jeremiah names Moses and Samuel. But what was in their name? It was intercession through prayer. Now, when God’s wrath could no longer be propitiated, nor His delivering hand extended, God tells Jeremiah that not even Moses or Samuel could change His mind.

God reminds Ezekiel of how He in the past brought famine to discipline His disobedient people. But now He says, “*Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord Jehovah*” (Ezekiel 14:14). God adds, “*neither son or daughter*” would be spared, even “*if Noah, Daniel were in it*” (Ezekiel 14:20). Righteousness characterizes Noah, Daniel and Job. Righteousness delivers only the one who manifests it. One’s righteousness

cannot transfer to another. Even if Noah, Daniel and Job were living in Jerusalem at the same time, they would not supply enough savoring salt for God to spare Jerusalem from destruction and captivity.

Noah was a preacher of righteousness who lived righteously, literally before the whole ungodly world (*2 Peter 2:5*). Daniel was standing above his peers in Babylon by manifesting holiness before his captors (*Daniel 1:8*). Job lived uprightly in his time, fearing God and turning away from evil (*Job 1:1*). Like Moses and Samuel, Job and Daniel interceded; Job on behalf of his family (*Job 1:5*); and Daniel on behalf of his nation (*Daniel 9*).

Jeremiah and Ezekiel remind us that character is what is in a name. Character is who we are, which is formed by what we do in our time on earth. Even though Noah, Job, Moses and Samuel were no longer on earth, their righteous name lived on. This is one reason why a good name should be chosen than great riches (*Proverbs 22:1*). We leave our riches behind; our character lives on beyond the grave when one mentions our name.

What is in your name?