

Glad Tidings

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

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What Noah, Daniel and Job Could Not Accomplish

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These three men were not contemporaries with one another and had different life experiences. Noah survived a world-wide flood, living on an ark for over a year in which only he and his family were saved from a wicked world. Daniel lived his adult life in Babylon, a foreign land, when King Nebuchadnezzar overthrew Jerusalem. Job persevered through personal loss and physical pain to enjoy abundant blessings from God in the end.

While they lived in different times, and had different experiences, Ezekiel brings them together as an object lesson for his contemporaries. In speaking of a sinning land, Ezekiel declares, “...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).

These three shared the status before God as men who were righteous. They were men of true righteousness before the eyes of God. Noah was not only a “preacher of righteousness,” but he lived it by “walking with God,” doing “all that God commanded him” to do in constructing the ark (2 Peter 2:5, Genesis 6:9, 22). Daniel, though young,

was a man of principle when he determined not to defile himself with the King’s dainties. This principled man did not compromise in his old age when a law to stop praying to God was enjoined. With open windows, he continued his practice of praying to God (*Daniel 1:8, 6:10*). He refused to compromise, regardless of the circumstances or consequences. Job was “perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and turned away from evil” (*Job 1:1*).

God, through His prophet Ezekiel, reminds us that righteousness is an individual responsibility before God. A land filled with sinners will not be saved by relying on the righteousness of these three men. The righteousness of Noah, Daniel, and Job could only save themselves, respectively.

For a moment, imagine these three men being members of our congregation. Would it not be easy to be caught up in Noah’s obedient walk with God, Daniel’s uncompromising faith, and Job’s enduring patience under difficult circumstances and overflow with pride in being a member of such a strong church? While Noah, Daniel, and Job accomplished much in their lives to

the glory of God, their righteousness cannot make you righteous before God.

In the Judgment, we will not be able to ride the coat tails of the righteous husband, wife, father, or mother we were blessed in life to have. Each person will stand before the Lord “to receive the things done in the body, according to what we have done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10).

While righteousness is personal, it must be initially established through obedient faith in Jesus Christ. Paul wanted to be found at the Judgment with a righteousness which is “through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith” (Philippians 3:9). In the saving power of the Gospel is revealed the righteousness of God (*Romans 1:16-17*). Have you submitted to its terms by believing the message of the saving Gospel (*Mark 16:15-16*), repenting (*Acts 3:19*), confessing Jesus as the Son of God (*Romans 10:9-10, Acts 8:37*), and be baptized to be saved from your sins (*Acts 2:38*)?

Being right before God is a personal responsibility. Noah, Daniel, and Job fulfilled their responsibility well, Will you?