

Daniel's Overcoming Examples

Satan has been cast down to earth for us to deal with him.

Revelation 12:10, 11,

“10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

11 “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

Luke 11:21, 22,

“21 “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace.

22 “But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.”

How the word “overcome” is translated in the Strong's Concordance is very important to understand as follows:

nikao {nik-ah'-o}

overcome, conquer, prevail, get the victory to conquer,

when one is arraigned or goes to law, to win the case, maintain one's cause,

to carry off the victory, come off victorious, of Christ, victorious over all His foes,

of Christians, that hold fast their faith even unto death against the power of their foes, and temptations and persecutions.

I am convinced that our purpose here on earth is to overcome the demonic attacks and curses that come against us so that others will be set free.

Twice in the Book of Daniel God gives us examples of overcoming suffering, even to the point of death, and how it worked to further the Kingdom of God.

I believe that the stories of Daniel in the Lions' Den and the three men in the furnace from the Book of Daniel confirm the point that God's primary purpose for our lives here on earth is to be agents for bringing God's Kingdom to earth, His original idea for creation. It also confirms that often that involves overcoming, which often involves challenges and even suffering.

These stories further confirm that our task is to allow God to continually conform us into His image, so that as overcomers we can claim that the attacks from the evil forces upon us are illegal, just as the crucifixion of Jesus was illegal. That is how we overcome, by persevering while being conformed to the image of Christ in us. The fact that Jesus was righteous and without sin is what caused Him to overcome death and defeat Satan. So in the same way, His righteousness in us causes us to overcome and defeat the spiritual forces in our lives.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (Amplified Bible) says,

“And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being

transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.”

Please notice as you go through these stories that Daniel and his fellow Israelites were captives in Babylon. Mystery Babylon in the Book of Revelation represents the spiritual evil world system that governs this earth. Therefore I submit that these stories are examples to us for the magnificent and unfathomable resurrection power of God working in our lives as we go through overcoming the evil forces in our lives.

As you read these stories, consider what the probability was for survival. How impossible were the circumstances? What about your circumstances? Do they look impossible?

I believe that God’s Kingdom, and we, experiences bonuses as we go through the fires and lion’s dens of life with victory, in His power. Others will be blessed by our sacrifices.

The story of the three Hebrew young men in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:1-4:3).

Daniel 3:1-18 says,

“Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Then a herald cried aloud: “To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,

that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up;

and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.”

So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews.

They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever!

You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image;

and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.”

Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king.

Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?

Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.

But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”

Notice the faith of these three young men. I believe that their faith in who they were in Christ is what protected them in the fire.

Daniel 3:19-25 says,

“Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.

And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.

And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

Jesus was the fourth man in the fire, but He is the only one that did not come out at that time. He took their penalty, their suffering, and their sin.

Daniel 3:26-27 says,

"Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.

And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them."

Now look at the result. The Gospel was preached throughout the entire inhabited earth! Notice that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, like Daniel, did not focus on preaching the Lord, but just in living godly lives.

Daniel 3:28-30 says,

"Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!

Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this."

Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon."

Daniel 4:1-3 says,

"Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace is multiplied to you.

I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me.

How great are His signs, and how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation.”

The story of Daniel in the lions’ den (Daniel 6:1-28).

Daniel 6:1-21 says,

“It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom;

and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss.

Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.

So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.

Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.”

So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: “King Darius, live forever!

All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.

Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.”

Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king’s decree: “Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” The king answered and said, “The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.”

So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."

And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you."

Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him.

Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions.

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?"

Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever!"

Look at the reason why Daniel was not touched by the lions. Innocence. (Strong's Concordance definition: to be clean, be pure, to be clear, be justified). I believe that Daniel chapter 9:5 shows how Daniel normally started his prayers. He confessed his sins and the sins of his people. That is one of the main ingredients of Daniel's innocence.

Daniel 6:22-23 says,

*"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."*

Then the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God."

Look at the result of Daniel's overcoming. First, those men who had accused Daniel were cast into the lions' den. Second, the Gospel was preached throughout the entire inhabited earth.

Daniel 6:24 says,

“And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions – them, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.”

Imagine, when these evil people were thrown into the lions’ den, they were broken to pieces even before they hit the ground!

Daniel 6:25-28 says,

“Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end.

He delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.”

Let us be “Daniels” who allow God to conform us to His image so that we may glorify Him.