

God Is Able

No. 160

Introduction.

- I. Once king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon made a law commanding everyone to worship the golden image that he had erected. Everyone worshiped the golden image except. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. They were faced with a very difficult decision. If they worshiped the golden image they would disappoint God and be guilty of idolatry. If they refused to worship the image they were to be thrown into the burning fiery furnace.
 - A. Their reply to Nebuchadnezzar is one of the greatest statements of faith and trust in the power of God to be found in all the Bible. (Dan. 3:17, 18).
 - B.. These three Jewish men were cast into the burning fiery furnace and the great God of heaven delivered them safely out of the fire because of their trust and faithfulness.
 - C. **Listen to the account of their deliverance.** (Dan. 3:19-28).

19 ¶ Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and his facial expression was altered toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. He answered by giving orders to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. 20 And he commanded certain valiant warriors who were in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, in order to cast them into the furnace of blazing fire. 21 Then these men were tied up in their trousers, their coats, their caps and their other clothes, and were cast into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire. 22 For this reason, because the king's command was urgent and the furnace had been made extremely hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. 23 But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire still tied up. 24 ¶ Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he responded and said to his high officials, "Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "Certainly, O king." 25 He answered and said, "Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods!" 26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire. 27 And the satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king's high officials gathered around and saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were

their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them. 28 ¶ Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.

II. **"Our God is able!"** This is one thing of which we can be certain!

- A. Our God is not like the lifeless, powerless, dumb gods of the heathen. He is not dead, or weak, or non-existent as most contemporaries conceive Him.
- B. He is alive and active and is able to do whatever He wills to do! Time after time God has demonstrated this awesome fact.

I. **Able To Do Miraculous Things** - God is able to do miraculous things.

A. Our God demonstrated His omnipotence "in the beginning". (Gen. 1:1). Our God simply spoke and our vast, infinite universe in all of its splendor came into existence. God created a universe that stretches beyond the reach of our most powerful telescopes.

1. **It is 200,000 years across our galaxy.** It take light, traveling at the speed of 186,000 miles per second, 200,000 years to travel across our galaxy. To calculate the distance across our galaxy you must multiply 200, 000 x 6 trillion. This is 12 followed by 17 zeros or 1 quintillion, two hundred quadrillion years.
2. The 200 inch telescope on **Mt. Palomar** is able to detect approximately one billion galaxies. How many galaxies are beyond this we do not know. Most astronomers believe that what we see is only a speck of what lies beyond.

B. God proved that He was able at **Mt. Carmel**. (1 Kgs. 18:20-39). God here proved that He is able, but false gods are powerless.

C. God has proven He is able on **many other occasions**.

1. God cause His **Son to be born of a virgin**. He blotted out the light of the sun when His Son was crucified. He resurrected His Son from the dead.
2. Truly, the power of God is unlimited! He can do anything and everything He wills to do! (Matt. 19:26).

II. **Able To Fulfill His Promises** - God is able to fulfill all of His promises.

A. God said to Abraham at the age of 75. (Gen. 12:3).

1. Abraham believed that great promise though he was 75 and his wife Sarah was 65. He continued to believe the promise until He was 99 and his wife was 89. There appeared to be no physical possibility of Abraham having children through Sarah.. But through divine intervention Sarah became pregnant at the age of 89.

2. **God kept His promise** and Abraham became a father when he was 100 and Sarah his wife was 90.

B. God also **kept the land promise** to Abraham and his descendants. God promised the land of Canaan to them.

1. Abraham's descendants, after the death of his great-grandson Joseph, became slaves in Egypt. It appeared that God had broken His promise. But this was far from the truth. God raised up Moses and he led the children of Israel out of Egypt.
2. Because of sin the Israelites were made to wander 40 years in the wilderness and most of them were not permitted to enter the promise land. But in about 1406 B.C. Joshua, the successor of Moses, led the Israelites into Canaan and they conquered the land.
3. After the dedication of the temple, Solomon said.

1KI 8:56 "Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant.

6. The promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob concerning a great nation and a great land had been fulfilled.
God has not failed in any of His promises.

C. God kept His promises in the past, and He is able to keep His promises today.

1. God will not fail. He cannot fail. It is impossible for Him to fail.
2. **Let the angels proclaim it. Let demons fear it. Let men believe it.**

III. **Able To Answer Prayer** - God is able to answer prayer. (Matt. 7:7-11; 21:22; Eph. 3:20)

A. Think about that for a moment. Paul said God is "is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think."

1. **Hannah** prayed for a son, though she was barren, and God gave her a son.
2. Time after time **Moses** prayed for God to spare Israel. Israel was spared.
3. **Zechariah** prayed for a child and to Elizabeth was born a son - John the Baptist.
4. The **church** prayed for Peter and he was released from prison.

B. Since God can and will answer these prayerful requests, we need not hesitate to offer our prayers in faith to Him.

1. He will answer the prayers of those who become His children and pray according to His will. (1 Jn. 5:14, 15). **We can be fully confident that God will answer our prayers that are according to His will.**
2. **A lady once said**, "I have lived to thank God that all my prayers have not been answered."
 - a. We sometimes ask God for selfish things, foolish things and even harmful and evil things, but God does not answer these prayers.
 - b. We should thank God that He always answers our prayer that are good and according to His will and says "no" to our prayers that are bad and opposed to His will.

IV. **Able To Guide The destinies Of Nations** - God is able to guide the destinies of nations.

A. Consider **the nations of Assyria and Babylon**. God allowed them to stand in their wickedness until they had accomplished His purposes. He used them to punish Israel and Judah. They were later destroyed for their own wickedness.

B. **God still controls the nations today.**

1. He is able to raise nations and He is able to punish and destroy nations.
2. God can bless our nation beyond our comprehension or He can reduce it to rubble and slavery.
3. He shouts, "Obey and be blessed. Disobey and be cursed."

V. **Able To Help Us Overcome Temptation** - God is able to help us overcome temptation. (1 Cor. 10:13; Jas. 4:7, 8).

- A. James asserts that in order to overcome temptation we must do 2 things. First, we must resist Satan. Second, we must draw close to God. If we will draw close to God and depend on His strength we can overcome any temptation.
- B. **Once a small boy was trying very hard to lift a heavy stone.** His father, happening by and noting his son's failure, said to him, "Are you using all your strength?" "Yes, I am," the boy exclaimed impatiently. The father said, "No, you are not. You have not asked me to help."
- C. There is a great lesson in this story for all of us. We often fail to overcome temptation because we do not ask our Father for help and then depend on His strength. We would do well to form the habit of asking God to help us. He is always present and anxious to help to if we will but call upon Him.

VI. **Able To Save Completely** - God is able to save completely.

- A. There is no sin that we have committed that God cannot forgive or will not forgive. No man has lived in sin so long that God will refused to forgive him if he come to God in penitence. (Isa. 1:18; 1 Jn. 1:9).
- B. **Sinful woman.** (Lk. 7). God completely forgave her and He will forgive us.
1. Once forgiven, our sins are completely removed from the record. God will never call them into question again and we need never fear their consequences again. The forgiveness of God is wondrous and marvelous. The forgiveness of God is absolute and permanent.
 2. Our God is able to save completely.

VII. **Able To Make Us A New Creature** - Our God is able to make us a new creature. (2 Cor. 5:17).

- A. Paul affirms that when a man comes into Christ he is a new creature and the old things are passed away. God, through His Son, make him a new person. He gives him a new purpose, a new heart, a new hope.
- B. God is able to make us over again and make us a new person if we will totally surrender our lives to Him and turn from our sins and confess Christ and be baptized with Christ and come forth a new creature.

Conclusion.

- I. Once an **atheist publicly challenged God** to show His power within five minutes by striking him dead. The five minutes elapsed and then he told the audience he had proven there is no God. An elderly lady standing by said, "Sir, have you any children? He answered, "Why?" She said, "If one of your children handed you a knife and said, "Kill me daddy" would you do it? The astonished man said, "Why, no, I love them too much." The lady said, "That is exactly why God did not strike you dead. He loves you too much."
- II. Yes, God loves us too much to strike us dead. He loves us so much that He stands with outstretched arms and invites us to come to Him. He will save and bless us if we will love Him back and surrender our lives to Him and His Son. Come to Him now as we stand and sing.

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