

Audio Transcript of Sermon
January 22, 2022
God is Our Defender

Hello. Thank you for joining us today. My name is Tom Laign with Sabbath Bible Study. There are many incredible narratives about the lives of people whose lives we read about in the Bible. When we dive deeply into the lives of Bible heroes, we see a common thread, and for the Bible zeroes, we see this common thread missing. Among the greatest in the Bible is a foundation, a strong belief in God, His protection, and how He defends His people. Make no mistake about it, for God's people today, God defends His people today.

God does not think as a person thinks or resolves situations as a person would. When God defends His people today, God uses tactics and strategies that are divinely inspired that transcend the logic and understanding of how people think. The greatest people of the Bible glimpsed this reality, and one of these people was David, King of Israel. During the period of time after God had selected David to be king and before he was formally installed as king, David became aware of the harassment of the Philistines, especially from their superhero warrior, Goliath.

Respecting his position as being subject to the rule of the king, David sought permission from Saul to engage Goliath in combat knowing that the battle would have repercussions on the relationships between Israel and the Philistines. Saul was quick to point out to David that he was without any combat experience and would be fighting a battle-hardened warrior who seemed undefeatable. David shared with Saul that while he did not have combat experience against people, he had to fight wild animals to defend his father's sheep, even when necessary engaging in up-close contact with these wild animals. In David's mind, Goliath would be nothing more to him than a wild animal. David knew that as much as God had delivered him from the mouth of wild animals, God would also deliver him from this Philistine. We can't tell from the passage if Saul was convinced by what David told him, but Saul allowed David to engage Goliath in combat. First Samuel seventeen verse thirty-one.

1 Samuel 17:31-52

31. And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.

32. And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

33. And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

34. And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

35. And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

36. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

37. David said moreover, The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee.

Saul gave David battle armor for the fight and David came to the conclusion that he would not use the armor because he had no experience with the armor or weapons. David knew that he could fight wild animals with clothes and weapons he normally used and determined he could also fight Goliath with clothes he normally wore and weapons he knew how to use. Instead of a heavy sword, David used a slingshot and went to a nearby stream and selected five smooth stones out of the water to use as ammunition. David then went to the battlefield to fight.

Getting closer to Goliath, Goliath had an armor bearer in front, a person who held the shield in front of Goliath, and Goliath when he saw who they were fighting felt insulted. In Goliath's mind, they were dressed as men ready to fight in combat and here was this boy dressed as a boy who wanted to fight, who brought his shepherd's staff with him to the fight. Today that would be like entering a boxing ring with a walking cane. Goliath called David every name he could think of and cursed God in the process. In Goliath's mind, God was so weak that the best that God could muster was a boy who brought his shepherd's staff. In Goliath's mind, he was already picturing victory, when David pointed out to him that although Goliath had come fully ready to fight, David came to the fight in the name of God

whom Goliath had defied, and told him that God would deliver him into his hands. Imagine how Goliath would have been thinking about this time. Goliath was probably feeling pretty smug and thought that David was pretty full of himself. If Goliath had any compassion in him, he was probably already regretting that a young person like David would have to die when the men of Israel would not even dare fight him.

At about this time as David concluded his words with Goliath, David ran forward to Goliath. With Goliath weighed down by armor, David had a speed advantage, and then before Goliath knew it, he was planted face down in the earth. We don't know if the slingshot killed Goliath, caused him to lose balance and fall forward, or caused Goliath to lose consciousness and fall down face first. We do know that David used this situation to quickly run to Goliath, grab Goliath's sword, and sever Goliath's head. Everyone on both sides of the battle knew for sure that Goliath was dead. Goliath's death caused a panic among the Philistines who began to flee, and this inspired the men of Israel to give chase. Verse thirty-eight.

38. And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.

39. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

40. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

41. And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him.

42. And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

43. And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

44. And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

45. Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

46. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

47. And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.

48. And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

49. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

50. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

51. Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

52. And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron.

On that day on that battlefield God delivered David and Israel because David had faith that God would deliver him. God delivered David and will deliver us as well. In the example of David, God provided deliverance through non-traditional means. God provided deliverance using methods that defied conventional thinking. God will deliver us from situations in our life as well. We need to have faith that all things work together for good for people who love God, meaning from first John five verse three who keep God's commandments, who are also called according to His purpose. All things working together for good means God will deliver us, and just like God allowed non-traditional means that defied conventional thinking as the avenue to bring deliverance to David, God can do the very same for us as well. Most important for us to remember is God's deliverance for us means that nothing and no person will separate us from the love of God or the love of Jesus Christ. Romans eight verse twenty-eight.

Romans 8:28-39

28. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

31. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

32. He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33. Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

34. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36. As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As a man who was delivered by God in not only the battle with Goliath, but during many other times during his life, David wrote psalms about deliverance, and acknowledged God as his deliverer who saved him from ungodly men who gave David reason to fear. This promise of deliverance won't magically erase human emotions like fear, and will instead help us work through our fear. Psalm eighteen verse one.

Psalm 18:1-6

1. I will love thee, O Lord, my strength.

2. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

3. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

4. The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

5. The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.

6. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

When God defends enemies flee. When God defends, God defends those who are least able to defend themselves and is a father to the fatherless and advocate for widows. Psalm sixty-eight verse one.

Psalm 68:1-6

1. Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.

2. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

3. But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

4. Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name Jah, and rejoice before him.

5. A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

6. God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

When God is your defender, God is your defender at all times. There is never a time when God is at rest or unable to defend. It is God who keeps us from evil. Psalm one hundred twenty-one verse one.

Psalm 121:1-8

1. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

2. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

- 3. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.**
- 4. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.**
- 5. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.**
- 6. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.**
- 7. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.**
- 8. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.**

David is one person who was delivered by God, and there are many other people who we can look to, and Daniel is one of those people. Imagine if you lived in a country and it was illegal to worship God. When Nebuchadnezzar was King of Babylon, a law was enacted that made it illegal for people to not worship a golden image set up by Nebuchadnezzar. Knowing today that we are to worship God and have salvation through Jesus Christ, if a similar law were enacted today, we would find ourselves in similar circumstances. Word got back to Nebuchadnezzar that Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, worshipped only the God of Israel and would not worship the golden image set up by Nebuchadnezzar. By law, they had to be tossed into a furnace and incinerated. Nebuchadnezzar was very angry with them when they told him that God could deliver them from a fiery furnace, and if for any reason, God would choose to not deliver them, they would still not worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image. Nebuchadnezzar had the furnace heated up more than seven times its normal strength. Daniel's three friends were then tossed into the furnace and it soon became evident that nothing was happening to them. Then it was noticed that a fourth person was in the furnace with them and they appeared to be walking around. That fourth person had the appearance of God. Nebuchadnezzar had a furnace door opened and called for Daniel's three friends to exit the furnace, and when they came out it was easy to see that no part of them or their clothes were burnt. There was not even a burnt smell about them. Nebuchadnezzar saw that God had delivered them, and made a new law that no person could speak against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, because of the deliverance that had been provided. Daniel three verse one.

Daniel 3:1-30

1. Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

2. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

3. Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4. Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,

5. That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

6. And whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

7. Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

8. Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

9. They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

10. Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

11. And whoso falleth not down and worshipping, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

12. There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

13. Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Then they brought these men before the king.

14. Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15. Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

16. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

19. Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

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

22. Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

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

24. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

26. Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

27. And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

28. Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

29. Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

30. Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, in the province of Babylon.

When it comes to deliverance, we must be like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego who acted in faith knowing that God had the power to deliver them. We cannot act with political expediency like Nebuchadnezzar. During the Exodus, the children of Israel were ready to act with political expediency when their back was up against not a wall, but the sea. They saw only certain death and could not comprehend that God had the power to deliver them. It took Moses standing before them and telling them with outstretched arms that God would deliver them by creating a pathway of dry land through the sea that was before them and by using the optics of light and darkness to hide the children of Israel from the Egyptians. When morning came, a strong wind had come causing the water to be displaced creating a pathway through the sea with walls of water on either side. The children of Israel traveled safely through the passage and the Egyptians were killed in the sea when the walls of water collapsed after all of the children of Israel had made it through. At that moment in time the children of Israel believed God because they saw God's deliverance. It would not take them long to forget about His deliverance. Exodus fourteen verse thirteen.

Exodus 14:13-31

13. And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

14. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

15. And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

16. But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

17. And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

18. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

19. And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:

20. And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

21. And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

22. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

23. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

24. And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the Lord looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

25. And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the Lord fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

26. And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

27. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

28. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

29. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

30. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

31. And Israel saw that great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and his servant Moses.

Philippians tells us to be careful for nothing. In modern usage that would mean we are not to be anxious, we are not to be concerned. Instead, we need to know we can take all of our requests with thanksgiving to God, and God will deliver us in the best way God determines. Gratitude must accompany our requests, showing that we need to remember all of the many different ways God has helped us previously and promises to help us into the future. Without gratitude this promise may not hold true. Philippians four verse seven.

Philippians 4:4-7

4. Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

5. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

6. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

One of the greatest types of deliverance is a deliverance from evil. While we focus on seeking first the Kingdom of God and God's righteousness, we can take great comfort in knowing that the God of peace will bruise, or crush, Satan under our feet. If you have ever walked into a room and saw an insect crawling on the floor, and stepped on it crushing it, you have an understanding of what God intends to do to Satan. Like a cockroach, God will soon crush Satan under our feet. God will deliver us from evil. We cannot lose hope of this. Romans sixteen verse nineteen.

Romans 16:19-20

19. For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

20. And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

In his second letter to the Thessalonians, Paul writes that God is faithful who will establish us and keep us from evil, and from unreasonable and wicked men.

Second Thessalonians three verse one.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-3

1. Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

2. And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

3. But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

God has delivered us from the penalty of sin. The penalty of sin is death, and we are not under that penalty of sin, we are under grace. Jesus Christ has died paying the penalty for our sins. We must be servants of righteousness seeking first the Kingdom of God and God's righteousness. Romans six verse fourteen.

Romans 6:14-18

14. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

15. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

16. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

17. But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

18. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

This concept is restated in many different ways in the Book of Romans showing that for the Romans this was a either a new or difficult subject to comprehend.

Even for the Church of God this can be hard to understand. While we all read these verses, some think that our salvation is based on what we do. Our salvation, our deliverance, is based on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For those who believe salvation, who believe deliverance, is based on one's own actions, you have made yourself equal to Jesus Christ. That's a mighty bold thing to do. Romans five verse twelve.

Romans 5:12-21

12. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

13. For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

15. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

16. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

17. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

18. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

19. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

20. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

21. That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are saved by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That doesn't give us a license to sin. When we seek first the Kingdom of God and God's righteousness, that means we seek obedience. It doesn't mean we will always be perfect in obedience. Something that is sought is not yet attained. Obedience is something

we need to chase, sort of like we are running down a train platform to hop on a train that we are a few seconds late for. Being saved by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ doesn't mean we will give up on seeking obedience and instead surrender to a life of sin. Romans six verse fifteen.

Romans 6:15-23

15. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

16. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

17. But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

18. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

19. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

20. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

21. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

22. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

23. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We can take confidence that God will deliver us from evil knowing that God will not abandon the good work started in us. God is willing, able, and ready to deliver us from all forms of evil so that we will be saved. Philippians one verse three.

Philippians 1:3-6

3. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

4. Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

5. For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

6. Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

We can take confidence that through the death of Jesus Christ we will be delivered from the evil we face and given life, an abundant life knowing that the full abundance we are promised will be spiritually focused and come to fruition in the Kingdom of God. John ten verse nine.

John 10:9-11

9. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

10. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

11. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

God has always defended His people while allowing the same people to exercise free moral agency. The children of Israel were delivered through the sea only to soon forget about God's deliverance. David was a man after God's own heart and he had the enemy of Israel, Goliath, delivered into his hand. And Daniel's three friends were delivered from the intense flames of a furnace and joined in that time by an unknown person who had the appearance of God. God still delivers His people and will deliver each of us from evil and unreasonable people, and wickedness in the manner best determined by God.

Thank you for joining us today. God-willing we'll get together next time on the Sabbath. Until then, thank you for joining us today.