**The God of Rescue[[1]](#footnote-1)**

***19****Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions.****20****As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”****21****Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever!****22****My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.”****23****Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.****24****And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.*

***25****Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: “Peace be multiplied to you.****26****I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel,*

*for he is the living God,    enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed,
    and his dominion shall be to the end.****27****He delivers and rescues;    he works signs and wonders    in heaven and on earth,
he who has saved Daniel    from the power of the lions.”*

***28****So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian. (Daniel 6:19-28, ESV)*

 Our God is a God of Rescue.

 Greetings dear brothers and sisters in Christ as we look practically at God’s saving, rescuing nature. Human beings in general, when they become aware of the truth of the existence of God, generally come to known him through his works. Knowing God’s nature and *modus operandi* is helpful for the believer in practically expressing his or her faith in everyday life. Therefore, today’s theme, which is the truth of God’s rescuing nature (or personality of salvation), is an important and foundational truth that defines our entire spiritual life. Again, our God is the God of Rescue through his nature, personality, and workstyle. Let’s see, then, how this truth translates to us in our lives.

 As he did with Daniel, God is able to save us even when we are in the worst situations. First, let’s go over the background a bit. The prophet Daniel was doing his work faithfully for the king of the day. Simultaneously, he was serving God faithfully through his focus and devotion to him in regular, daily prayer on his knees. He was fulfilling his debt to both King and God. There was no one who could find fault with him, especially his co-workers since Daniel was truly righteous. They were jealous of him, and they therefore decide to set a trap for him. But even when the order came to Daniel to worship the king only for a month, the prophet faithfully continued to worship the Lord. Look at the faithfulness, the courage! Of course, we see that Daniel’s faithfulness to God got him into big trouble. However, we also see that just as the three young men were rescued out of the fiery furnace after being thrown in, that Daniel was also rescued *after* being thrown into the lions’ den. It was as if God had allowed that impossible situation, so that the glory for someone escaping it would go to God alone, and that his own people would not glory in their own faith. It was as if God allowed the situation so that the unbelieving heathens would have respect both for him and his children.

Once, President Theodore Roosevelt, when a colonel in the army, visited the reservation of the Navajo Indians. In conversation with a Christian missionary, the colonel asked, "Do you think if we were to provide these Indians with better living conditions, better housing, clothes, and the like, that you could more easily reach them with the Gospel?" The missionary replied, "Suppose, Colonel, that when the prodigal son was in the far country someone had given him a good home, a new suit of clothes, and a bank account: how soon would he have returned to the father's house?" Colonel Roosevelt pondered a moment, and then snappily answered, "Never!"

God sometimes rescues us in such ways that we cannot in any way become prideful, and his enemies must respect him and us. Often, God’s plans are much larger than our limited knowledge. There are times when the main issue in our lives is more connected to God than us, ultimately. Sometimes when you have a problem, God intends to use that issue to put the unbeliever to shame and to take you through the fire and rescue you. Perhaps today your “lions” are not physical animals, but a sickness in your body. Or perhaps your impossible situation is the mocking of some unbelievers or disingenuous believers around you (who are also unknowingly mocking God thru you).

Our task is to do what Daniel did. Our task is to train ourselves in humility. To go deeper in the lifestyle of worship. To approach even death with our faith in God, knowing that in all situations, we are in God’s mighty hands, even if he has to close the mouths of the lions by sending a literal angel to us.

As it was with Daniel, God can rescue us in the worst of situations. Our God, in his nature, personality and work, is a God of Rescue.

Therefore, hold on tightly to your faith. Train yourself in God’s Word. Be ready in every situation to obey your Lord, even to the end. May the Lord Bless you, Amen.

1. The Armenian word for “to rescue” (*pergel)* is also used for “to save”. So, there is a bit of a wordplay going on here. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)