



A HEART OF DEVOTION AND LOVE

Dan 10:8 "Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength."

We see very clearly that Daniel was a weak man, without any great measure of strength. However, the Lord saw his heart of devotion and love towards God. This is the most significant factor here. It matters little if we are weak; what touches the Lord is whether our heart is strong for the Lord and for His purpose.

Dan 10:9-11

9 Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.

10 And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.

11 And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

The Lord called Daniel "a man greatly beloved", because his strength lay in the Lord and his heart was toward God. When the heart is toward God then the Lord becomes the strength. It is not our sufficiency, but His sufficiency that

Ponder over this!

When the heart is toward God then the Lord becomes the strength. It is not our sufficiency, but His sufficiency that matters.

matters. Daniel held on to the Lord and God became his sufficiency. Daniel's strength was in the Lord and he kept the word of the Lord. Daniel had read the Book of Jeremiah and knew that the captivity of Israel was to last for 70 years. He held on to that word for a long time by any standards. He had heard the word of the Lord and he held onto it in the face of all the difficulties that arose in Babylon. He did not let go of that word till it was fulfilled. He held on to the word that said that God would restore His people, that he would build the ruins of Jerusalem, and that He would restore that which was lost after 70 years.

If ever there was a man who stood up to tremendous pressure to deny God's name in those ancient days it was Daniel (and his three brothers). In Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar considered himself to be the greatest of men. Everyone in that great city of Babylon bowed before the name of King Nebuchadnezzar. **To choose to honour the Name of Jehovah was to choose to die**, but Daniel did not deny the Lord's name! Nebuchadnezzar was a great name in the earth in those days for he invaded and conquered country after country. His Empire extended from one end of the oceans to the other and his name was on the lips of every man. That was the situation in Persia when Daniel was ordered and pressurized to deny the name of the Lord and bow before the name of Nebuchadnezzar. In the midst of dire circumstances, Daniel and his Hebrew brothers steadfastly withstood the challenge to deny the Name of the Lord. The four of them held on to the name of the Lord and to His word of patience. Daniel was tried and tested for a long time for he lived through five Persian kingdoms when several powerful kings ruled in the seventy year period. Powerful kings reigned and eventually perished, but because Daniel held on to the Name of the Lord, He was able to wait for the word of the Lord to be fulfilled.

It was a difficult time for Daniel—a long drawn out time for the trial of his patience and faith. The last chapters of the Book of Daniel show that **though he had grown old and weak, yet he did not deny the Name of the Lord**. He held-on with

perseverance through seventy years of the captivity of Israel during which many things could have happened to him and his Hebrew brethren. Their patience was severely tried and tested. The fires could have destroyed them, the cruel Persians could have killed them, the palace guards could have poisoned them, and the lions could have devoured them. They could easily have complained and murmured, "When and where is the word of the Lord that is to be fulfilled?" But they overcame such thoughts by submitting to God's word. They knew that God's word would eventually be fulfilled and neither lions, nor fires, nor enemies could ever wound or negate the word of the Lord.

This devotion is sent to you with a prayer and hope that it will secure something of eternal value. You could get in touch with the author at joythomas@oilnwine.org or if you want UNSUBSCRIBE webmaster@oilnwine.org

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