

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF NOAH, DANIEL & JOB

Ezekiel 14:12-20

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We see that when there is persistent unfaithfulness in a land, God will extend His hand against it.

"Then the word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Son of man, if a country sins against Me by committing unfaithfulness, and I stretch out My hand against it, destroy its supply of bread, send famine against it and cut off from it both man and beast ...'"

(Ezekiel 14:12-13)

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When you have persistent unfaithfulness and the Lord's hand is against a land, in verse 14 the scriptures says:

"... even though these three men, Noah, Daniel and Job were in its midst, by their own righteousness they could only deliver themselves," declares the Lord God. **(Ezekiel 14:14)**

A similar statement is made in verses 19 & 20 of the same chapter. Why would God place such high honor on Noah, Daniel and Job?

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Why does God (through Ezekiel) mention these three men?

What did Noah, Daniel & Job have in common?

- ✓ **All were faithful, in spite of trials.**
- ✓ **All were in the minority.**
- ✓ **All endured and pleased the Lord.**
- ✓ **All were loved by God.**

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF NOAH, DANIEL & JOB

- ✓ **All were faithful, in spite of trials.**

Noah:

"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The Lord said, 'I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.' But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God."

(Genesis 6:5-9)

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- ✓ **All were faithful, in spite of trials.**

Noah:

"But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds after their kind, and of the animals after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. As for you, take for yourself some of all food which is edible, and gather it to yourself; and it shall be for food for you and for them." Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did."

(Genesis 6:18-22)

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF
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✓ **All were faithful, in spite of trials.**

Daniel:

"But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself." (Daniel 1:8)

"Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously. Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God." (Daniel 6:10-11)

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✓ **All were faithful, in spite of trials.**

Job:

"The Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.'" (Job 1:8)

"Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. He said, 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.' Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God." (Job 1:20-22)

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✓ **All were faithful, in spite of trials.**

We all have trials, and God provides a way for us to be faithful during them.

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (James 1:2-4)

"No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

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✓ **All were in the minority.**

Noah: (Eight out of millions)

"... when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you - not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience - through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him." (1 Peter 3:20b-22)

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✓ **All were in the minority.**

Daniel: (the only one recorded who defied the decree)

"Then they answered and spoke before the king, 'Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps making his petition three times a day.'" (Daniel 6:13)

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✓ **All were in the minority.**

Job: (even close friends & family turned on him)

"Then his wife said to him, 'Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!'" (Job 2:9)

"My relatives have failed, and my intimate friends have forgotten me." (Job 19:14)

"All my associates abhor me, and those I love have turned against me." (Job 19:19)

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✓ **All were in the minority.**

Being a child of God means being in the minority.

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

(Matthew 7:13-14)

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'" (John 14:6)

"For many are called, but few are chosen."

(Matthew 22:14)

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF
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✓ **All endured and pleased the Lord.**

Noah:

"In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights." (Genesis 7:11-12)

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Noah:

"So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by their families from the ark. Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. The Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, 'I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.'" (Genesis 8:18-21)

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✓ **All endured and pleased the Lord.**

Noah:

"... and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly ..."

(2 Peter 2:5)

"By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."

(Hebrews 11:7)

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Daniel:

"Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up again and carried on the king's business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain it." (Daniel 8:27)

"In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans – in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes." (Daniel 9:1-3)

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Daniel:

"In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; and the message was true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision. In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks were completed." (Daniel 10:1-3)

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Daniel:

"But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age." **(Daniel 12:13)**

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✓ **All endured and pleased the Lord.**

Job:

"Then Job answered the Lord and said, 'I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me. I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You; Therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes.'" (Job 42:1-6)

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Job:

"As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful." **(James 5:10-11)**

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF
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✓ **All endured and pleased the Lord.**

We too must endure to be pleasing to God.

"You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved."
(Mark 13:13)

"If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us ..." **(2 Timothy 2:12)**

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF
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✓ **All endured and pleased the Lord.**

We too must endure to be pleasing to God.

"It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?" **(Hebrews 12:7)**

"For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God." **(1 Peter 2:20)**

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF
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✓ **All were loved by God.**

Noah:

"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God. Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth."
(Genesis 6:8-10)

"But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you." **(Genesis 6:18)**

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Daniel:

"He gave me instruction and talked with me and said, 'O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding. At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision.'" (Daniel 9:22-23)

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Daniel:

"He said to me, 'O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.' And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling." (Daniel 10:11)

"And he said, 'O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.' And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, 'Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.'" (Daniel 10:19 ESV)

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✓ **All were loved by God.**

Job:

"The Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause.'" (Job 2:3)

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Job:

"The Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the Lord increased all that Job had twofold. Then all his brothers and all his sisters and all who had known him before came to him, and they ate bread with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversities that the Lord had brought on him. And each one gave him one piece of money, and each a ring of gold. The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had 14,000 sheep and 6,000 camels and 1,000 yoke of oxen and 1,000 female donkeys. He had seven sons and three daughters." (Job 42:10-13)

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✓ **All were loved by God.**

We are loved by God!

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

(John 3:16 NKJV)

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

(Romans 5:8)

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We are loved by God!

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) ..." (Ephesians 2:4-5)

"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word."

(2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF NOAH, DANIEL & JOB

✓ **All were loved by God.**

We are loved by God!

"By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:9-10)

"... and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood ..."

(Revelation 1:5)

CONCLUSION

To be considered righteous like Noah, Daniel & Job, we must share their dedication to obey the Lord.

- ✓ **All were faithful, in spite of trials.**
- ✓ **All were in the minority.**
- ✓ **All endured and pleased the Lord.**
- ✓ **All were loved by God.**

CONCLUSION

We can be like Noah, Daniel, and Job by choosing to please God, even when in the minority and enduring trials. Consider this scene around the throne of God:

"Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, 'These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'My lord, you know.' And he said to me, 'These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.'" (Revelation 7:13-17).

CONCLUSION

We are all encouraged to learn from Noah, Daniel, and Job. Obey God and He will bless you in this life and for eternity in Heaven one day! Like them, we must practice righteousness.

"Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil." (1 John 3:7-8)

If you are not a Christian, please consider this: If God commanded Noah, Daniel, or Job to do something, do you think they would do it?

HOW TO OBEY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

God now commands all people everywhere to:

Hear the word of God **(Romans 10:17)**

Believe in His Son Jesus **(John 3:16)**

Confess His name before men **(Romans 10:9)**

Repent of our sins **(Acts 2:38)**

Be baptized to wash away our sins **(Acts 22:16)**

Live righteously for Him **(Matthew 7:21)**