



News and Views

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Daniel,..continued

By EGW

Youth Instructor March 8, 1904

The golden image set up in the plain of Dura, an image ninety feet in height and nine in breadth, presented an imposing and majestic appearance. Nebuchadnezzar issued a proclamation, calling upon all the officers of the kingdom to assemble at the dedication of this image, and, at the sound of musical instruments, to bow down and worship it. Should any fail of doing this, they were immediately to be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

The appointed day came, and at the sound of the music the vast company that was assembled at the king's command, "fell down, and worshiped the golden image." "At that time certain Chaldeans came near,...and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live forever....There are certain Jews who you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O

king, have not regarded you: they serve not your gods, nor worship the golden image which you have set up."

Filled with rage, the king commanded that the men be brought before him. "Is it true," he inquired, "do you not serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?" Pointing to the angry furnace, he reminded them of the punishment that would be theirs if they refused to obey his will.

The king decided to give them a second trial. "If you be ready," he said, "at what time you hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, you fall down and worship the image which I have made; well; but if you worship not, you shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." Then, with hand stretched upward in defiance, he asked, "And who is

that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?"

In vain were the king's threats. He could not turn these noble men from their allegiance to the great Ruler of nations. For the history of their fathers, they had learned that disobedience to God results in dishonor, disaster, and death; that the fear of the Lord is not only the beginning of wisdom, but the foundation of all true prosperity. They knew that they owed to God every faculty they possessed; and while their hearts were full of generous sympathy toward all men, they had a lofty aspiration to prove themselves loyal to God.

When the king was troubled in regard to his dream, these men, with Daniel, had fasted and prayed, that they might understand the dream. The Lord had heard their cries, and he had given to Daniel wisdom to interpret the dream to the king. Thus their own lives and

the lives of the astrologers and soothsayers had been saved. Now the very men who escaped death through the mercy of God to his servants, had been the prime movers in securing the decree in regard to the worship of the golden image. But the three Hebrews made no mention of these things; they knew that a controversy with the king would only increase his fury.

Standing before the angry monarch, with the image in sight, and the sound of the entrancing music in their ears, these young men thought of the promise made to the prophet Isaiah more than one hundred years before; "Fear not: for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon you."

The answer of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego was respectful, but decided. Looking with calmness upon the fiery furnace and the idolatrous throng, they said, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer you in this matter. If it be so (if this be your decision), our God whom we serve will deliver us out of your hand, O king" These Hebrew youth had unquestioning faith in God, and they were determined to honor him at any cost. Their faith strengthened with the declaration that God would be glorified by delivering them, and with a triumphant ring of trust in their voice, they added:

"But if not, be it known unto you, O king, that we will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image which you have set up."

To be continued.

How would we today stand up under such a test?

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A Godly Mother's Counsel
Ellen White

At a very early age children can comprehend what is plainly and simply told them, and by kind and judicious management can be taught to obey....The mother should not allow her child to gain an advantage over her in a single instance. And in order to maintain this authority it is not necessary to resort to harsh measures; a firm, steady hand and a kindness which convinces the child of your love will accomplish the purpose.

When children love and repose confidence in their mother, and have become obedient to her, they have been taught the first lessons in becoming Christians. They must be obedient to and love and trust Jesus as they are obedient to and love and trust their parents.

Prompt and continual obedience to wise parental rule will promote the happiness of the children themselves as well as the honor of God and the good of society. Children should learn that in submission to the laws of the household is their perfect liberty. Christians will learn the same lesson—that

in their obedience to God's law is their perfect freedom.

Children will be happier, far happier, under proper discipline than if left to do as their untrained impulses shall suggest." *My Life Today p. 164*

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Paul's Secret to a Grateful Heart.
By Joni Eareackson Tada

For over two years, the apostle Paul was a prisoner,, shifted from "pillar to post" until he was shipped out to Rome. Once there, Paul continued to be under house arrest. He thanked the believers in Philippi for their concern and reassured them with these gracious words: "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. Phil 4:11-12

Paul was talking about an internal quietness of heart (supernaturally given) that makes God the focus, rather than hardships. Outwardly, not much changed about Paul's plight—there was still harsh treatment and cold nights in a bleak jail cell. But Paul did not resign himself to his problems, vexing and fretting, bitterly faulting God for his plight. Rather, Paul enjoyed the contentment of a calm spirit that was able to relax in God's control. Paul *learned* how to live this way by understanding and then practicing it. What did he understand?

“I have *learned* the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.” Phil. 4:12 What was the secret Paul learned? Greek scholars say that the word rendered as “contentment” in our Bibles has the meaning of “sufficiency.” Paul uses the same Greek root in his comments in Philippians 4 as he does in 2 Corinthians 12:9a, “...My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Paul's secret was simply *learning* to lean on the Lord of grace for help. “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Heb. 4:16 Paul had to *master* this. It meant making tough choices—deciding this, not that; going in this direction, not that one. Why does the secret involve such hard work? Because it's not our natural

bent. Humbly seeking help from God doesn't come automatically. Just take a look at a few of Paul's well-chosen words in Philippians: “ I press on...I contend...I stand firm...”

Paul's contentment opened the way for gratitude to blossom. He wrote in 2 Corinthians 1:8-9, “We are under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.” Paul was able to rejoice that his tough circumstances forced him to rely on God, rather than his own strength. And it was the reality of God's grace in his life that produced true gratitude.

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Points to Ponder

Taken from markofbeast.net

"The European Sunday Alliance is convinced that working on Sundays endangers the health and safety of workers as well as the social cohesion in our societies ... Only a well-protected common work-free day per week enables citizens to enjoy full participation in cultural, sports, social and religious life and allows for reconciliation. That is why the European Sunday Alliance commits itself to safeguarding a work-free Sunday."

See how they are pushing this now? Don't be surprised to see Satan causing bad things to happen and linking it with not keeping Sunday as a day of rest, in order to bring about the Sunday law.

Another quote

"Poland's leading Catholic bishop has spoken out in favour of an almost complete ban on shops opening on Sunday, amid growing public controversy over the proposal. Free Sundays are what all Catholics, non-Catholics and non-believers need, Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki told Polish Radio ahead of a meeting of the Bishops Conference on Friday, which is expected to support the ban ... The clerics are careful to base their argument on quality of life rather than religious grounds."

One more

(March 2017)

"The Croatian Bishops' Conference (HBK) has again launched an initiative to legally forbid working on Sunday. It called on Croatian citizens to support the initiative and contribute to the preservation of Sunday in its historical meaning, as a non-working day which is an opportunity for a family reunion."

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Points Worth Memorizing.

Meekness is a precious grace, willing to suffer silently, willing to endure trials...**Meekness** is always thankful and makes its own songs of happiness, making melody in the heart of God. **Meekness** will suffer disappointment and wrong and will not retaliate. A **meek** and quiet spirit will not be ever looking out for happiness for itself, but will seek for self-forgetfulness and find sweet content and true satisfaction in making others happy. My Life Today p. 56

Read Matt. 5:5

Preparation for the End Early Writings p.69-71

At Oswego, New York, September 7, 1850, the Lord showed me that a great work must be done for His people before they could stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. I was pointed to those who claim to be Adventists, but who reject the present truth, and saw that they were crumbling and that the hand of the Lord was in their midst to divide and scatter them now in the gathering time, so that the precious jewels among them, who have formerly been deceived, may have their eyes opened to see their true state. And now when the truth is presented to them by the Lord's messengers, they are prepared to listen, and see its beauty and harmony, and to leave their former associates and errors, embrace the precious truth and stand where they can define their position. {EW 69.2}

I saw that those who oppose the Sabbath of the Lord could not take the Bible and show that our position is incorrect; therefore they would slander those who believe and teach the truth and would attack their characters. Many who were once conscientious and loved God and His Word have become so hardened by rejecting the light of truth that they do not hesitate to wickedly misrepresent and falsely accuse those who love the holy Sabbath, if by so doing they can injure the influence of those who fearlessly declare the truth. But these things will not hinder the work of God. In fact, this course pursued by those who hate the truth will be the very means of opening the eyes of some. Every jewel will be brought out and gathered, for the hand of the Lord is set to recover the remnant of

His people, and He will accomplish the work gloriously. {EW 69.3}

We who believe the truth should be very careful to give no occasion for our good to be evil spoken of. We should know that every step we take is in accordance with the Bible; for those who hate the commandments of God will triumph over our missteps and faults, as the wicked did in 1843. {EW 70.1}

May 14, 1851, I saw the beauty and loveliness of Jesus. As I beheld His glory, the thought did not occur to me that I should ever be separated from His presence. I saw a light coming from the glory that encircled the Father, and as it approached near to me, my body trembled and shook like a leaf. I thought that if it should come near me I would be struck out of existence, but the light passed me. Then could I have some sense of the great and terrible God with whom we have to do. I saw then what faint views some have of the holiness of God, and how much they take His holy and reverend name in vain, without realizing that it is God, the great and terrible God, of whom they are speaking. While praying, many use careless and irreverent expressions, which grieve the tender Spirit of the Lord and cause their petitions to be shut out of heaven. {EW 70.2}

I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully. {EW 71.1}

I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so

needful and were looking to the time of "refreshing" and the "latter rain" to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God.

Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. Before this time the awfully solemn declaration has gone forth, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."

I saw that none could share the "refreshing" unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence. {EW 71.2}

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What is desired of a man is kindness, and a poor man is better than a liar. Prov. 19:22