

“DIVINE DELIVERANCE”

OBJECTIVE: DISCOVER HOW GOD DIVINELY DELIVERS OUR LIVES. EXAMINE THE HOLY SCRIPTURES THAT DEMONSTRATE GOD’S DELIVERING POWER.

KEY SCRIPTURES: LUKE 4:18/MATTHEW 6:13/EXODUS



DIVINE DELIVERANCE IS A CENTRAL BIBLICAL CONCEPT DESCRIBING GOD’S SOVERIEGN POWER TO RESCUE PEOPLE FROM PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND _____ DISTRESS, SUCH AS SIN, ILLNESS, OR OPPRESSION, THROUGH FAITH AND DIVINE GRACE.

GOD DID IT FIRST AT THE RED SEA. WITH PHARAOH’S ARMY BEHIND THEM AND THE WATER IN FRONT, MOSES TOLD THE PEOPLE, “FEAR YE NOT, STAND STILL, AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD” (EXODUS 14:13). THEY HAD NOTHING TO DO BUT WATCH GOD KEEP THE PROMISE HE MADE AT THE BUSH.

THE LATER RESCUES FOLLOW THE SAME SHAPE. JOSEPH, SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS AND RAISED TO POWER IN EGYPT, TELLS THEM

GOD SENT HIM AHEAD “TO SAVE YOUR LIVES BY A GREAT DELIVERANCE” (GENESIS 45:7). IT IS THE FIRST TIME THE NOUN APPEARS IN THE KING JAMES BIBLE. IN JUDGES THE CYCLE COMES ROUND AGAIN AND AGAIN: ISRAEL TURNS AWAY, FALLS UNDER AN OPPRESSOR AND CRIES OUT, AND “THE LORD RAISED UP A DELIVERER TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, WHO DELIVERED THEM, EVEN OTHNIEL THE SON OF KENAZ” (JUDGES 3:9).

WE FIND GOD AT WORK IN DANIEL 3:8-18 THREE YOUNG MEN WHO REFUSED TO BOW TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR AND HIS IMAGE AS GOD COMMANDED TO PUT NO OTHER GODS BEFORE HIM. THEY WERE FACING LIFE OR DEATH WITH THEIR DECISION AND BELIEVED GOD COULD DELIVER THEM.

THE PATTERN RUNS ON INTO THE NEW TESTAMENT. HEROD HELD PETER IN PRISON, THE CHURCH PRAYED, AN ANGEL WOKE HIM AND “HIS CHAINS FELL OFF FROM HIS HANDS.” PETER SAID AFTERWARDS, “NOW I KNOW OF A SURETY, THAT THE LORD HATH SENT HIS ANGEL, AND HATH DELIVERED ME OUT OF THE HAND OF HEROD” (ACTS 12:7, 11).

SEVERAL HEBREW AND GREEK WORDS STAND BEHIND OUR ONE ENGLISH WORD, AND EACH ADDS ITS OWN SHADE. THE FIRST HEBREW VERB, **NATSAL**, MEANS TO “SNATCH AWAY, DELIVER,” AS THE BROWN-DRIVER-BRIGGS LEXICON PUTS IT. IT IS THE WORD FOR DAVID PULLING A LAMB OUT OF THE MOUTH OF A LION OR A BEAR (1 SAMUEL 17:35), AND IT IS THE WORD GOD USES AT THE BURNING BUSH. THE SECOND, **YASHA**, MEANS TO DELIVER OR SAVE. STRONG’S CONCORDANCE EXPLAINS ITS ROOT AS BEING “OPEN, WIDE OR FREE,” AND OUR BIBLES TRANSLATE IT SAVE, SAVIOUR AND DELIVERER, THE TITLE GIVEN TO THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL.