

Three Wise Men

At the outset let me acknowledge that this outline came from Brother Bobby Amos and I have no idea who he stole it from. So I took the notes and embellished them according to my whimsy. All preachers are thieves in that they take what they read and hear and run it through their biases and prejudices and then retell it.

So let's consider three wise men; Noah, Daniel, and Job.

Note that out of all the men in history up to the time of Ezekiel, God selects these three men as examples of righteousness.

First we need to set up the context for the wisdom of these three men.

Ezekiel 13:1-3

And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ²"Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy out of their own heart, 'Hear the word of the LORD !'"

³ Thus says the Lord GOD: "Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing!"

Noah, Daniel, and Job, all three, were plagued by scoffers and “friends” who did not speak from God, but rather from their own hearts.

Ezekiel 14:1-3

Now some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. ² And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ³"Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?"

Ezekiel discerns that the men before him are idolaters and God himself, as it were, asks if He should pay them any heed at all.

This is, of course, a rhetorical question on God's part because God is not learning anything!

Ezekiel 14:12-23

¹² The word of the LORD came again to me, saying: ¹³ "Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it. ¹⁴ Even *if* these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver *only* themselves by their righteousness," says the Lord God.

Here is a lesson for America. Even if there are some righteous people still left when God sends judgment, and in my mind judgment is long overdue, the righteous will be delivered and all the rest are destroyed. By delivered I do not mean that the righteous will not suffer physically but their immortal souls will be safe with God.

In these judgments of famine, wild beasts, the sword, and pestilence listen carefully for who is the first cause. It's not "Mother Nature" or "bad luck" or Satan; it is God!

¹⁵ "If I cause wild beasts to pass through the land, and they empty it, and make it so desolate that no man may pass through because of the beasts, ¹⁶ *even though* these three men *were* in it, *as I live*," says the Lord God, "they would deliver neither sons nor daughters; only they would be delivered, and the land would be desolate.

¹⁷ "Or *if* I bring a sword on that land, and say, 'Sword, go through the land,' and I cut off man and beast from it, ¹⁸ *even though* these three men *were* in it, *as I live*," says the Lord God, "they would deliver neither sons nor daughters, but only they themselves would be delivered.

¹⁹ "Or *if* I send a pestilence into that land and pour out My fury on it in blood, and cut off from it man and beast, ²⁰ *even though* Noah, Daniel, and Job *were* in it, *as I live*," says the Lord God, "they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver *only* themselves by their righteousness."

²¹ For thus says the Lord God: "How much more it shall be when I send My four severe judgments on Jerusalem – the sword and famine and wild beasts and pestilence – to cut off man and beast from it? ²² Yet behold, there shall be left in it a remnant who will be brought out, *both* sons and daughters; surely they will come out to you, and you will see their ways and their doings. Then you will be comforted concerning the disaster that I have brought upon Jerusalem, all that I have brought upon it. ²³ And they will comfort you, when you see their ways and their doings; and you shall know that I have done nothing without cause that I have done in it," says the Lord God.

One of the results of being in heaven with Jesus Christ is that we will see some of our dearest loved ones the way that God sees them in their rebellion against His righteous reign over them. No longer will we be able to make excuses for our closest relations who will not submit to King Jesus.

Rev 19:1-6

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power *belong* to the Lord our God! ² For true and righteous *are* His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants *shed* by her." ³ Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" ⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" ⁵ Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both* small and great!"

⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

This may be a hard concept for many to grasp but that is only because we don't hate sin as much as God does.

Now let's focus on these three wise men:

Some common traits of Noah, Daniel, and Job

They were SURVIVORS through righteousness in the face of total collapse.

They were VICTORS in the midst of trial by obedience, patience, steadfastness, & faithfulness.

They were HOLY MEN true to God and upright in their lives.

They were FAITHFUL MEN daring to stand alone in isolation when everyone else chose the popular way.

Let's first review the historical setting for Noah, Daniel, and Ezekiel.

NOAH –

Genesis 6:1-12

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they *were* beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

³ And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." ⁴ There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore *children* to them. Those *were* the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. ⁶ And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

⁹ This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰ And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹ The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Noah's righteousness could not save the world.

Noah believed God and was obedient to Him.

Only eight souls survived the flood out of perhaps billions of people.

DANIEL –

Daniel 1:1-8

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

³ Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, ⁴ young men in whom *there was* no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who *had* ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. ⁵ And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of *that time* they might serve before the king. ⁶ Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. ⁷ To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel *the name* Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

⁸ But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Daniel 10:10-13

¹⁰ Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. ¹¹ And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

¹² Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

Daniel's righteousness could not save his country.

Daniel believed God and purposed in his heart to be steadfast in the purity of holy living.

JOB –

Job 1:1-8

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. ² And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. ³ Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

⁴ And his sons would go and feast *in their* houses, each on his *appointed* day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly.

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?"

So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

Job's righteousness could not save his family.

Job was faithful to God in prayer, sacrifice, and patience. When God said to Satan, "Hast thou considered my servant Job" it reveals that God held Job in high esteem.

3. But a greater than these three wise men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, has come!

These three men had a personal righteousness before their fellow sinners and they looked forward to the source of true righteousness in Christ Jesus.

Rom 1:16-17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "*The just shall live by faith.*"

Romans 5:17-21

¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

¹⁸ Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment* came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

²⁰ Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, ²¹ so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

And we will conclude with a continuation of Revelation 19:6-10

Revelation 19:6-10

⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

⁹ Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." ¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

So who are the wise?

Genesis to Revelation is the prophetic testimony that only the righteousness of Jesus Christ, the sacrificial Lamb of God, is worthy enough to save us from our sins and to give us eternal life.

Praise be unto God that our salvation does not depend upon our personal righteousness for it is but filthy rags in the eyes of God. Man's righteousness cannot save, but the righteousness of Christ saves to the uttermost and for eternity.

Wise men believe the testimony of God that salvation is only in the righteousness of Jesus the Christ of God!

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