

Daniel 2:28

28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days....

\*\*\*\*\*

Nebuchadnezzar was the King of Babylon. One night he had a dream that really worried him. He couldn't get back to sleep. In the morning, he called all of his wise men together and said to them, "Tell me the meaning of my dream."

They replied, "We will try to tell you the meaning if you will tell us the dream."

But the King said, "I have forgotten the dream, but you claim to be wise men, so surely you can tell me both what I dreamed and its meaning. If you can't do that, I will have you cut to pieces."

"It can't be done," they complained, "No man on Earth could do that."

King Nebuchadnezzar was furious! "Kill every wise man in the Kingdom!" he yelled.

But Daniel the Prophet went to the King and said, "Give me just a little time and I will tell you the dream and its meaning."

What did Daniel do then? He called three of his friends together and said to them, "I want you to pray with me and ask God to reveal to me the dream and what it means." So they prayed together long into the night. And God sent a vision to Daniel which explained the dream and made its meaning clear.

The next day, Daniel stood before King Nebuchadnezzar and said, "No man on Earth could tell you your dream and its meaning. But there is a God in Heaven, and he revealed the dream to me."

\*\*\*\*\*

Trouble comes to everyone sooner or later. What should we do when it comes? The very first thing we should do is remind ourselves that THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN who cares for us.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God sent His Son Jesus to die for us: this tells us that He cares for us very deeply indeed!

And God is able to take the troubles that seem so horrible to us and turn them into a blessing. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know

that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." We usually can't see the good right away - the trouble is too awful and too urgent to be laughed-off that easily. But years later, we may look back and see that time of trouble as one of the great turning points in our life.

When my father died at the early age of 56, it broke my heart and shattered my world. But I remembered what Job said in Job 1:21 when his entire family was killed and all of his property was destroyed, "...the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Two months after my father died, my brother decided to trust Jesus as his Lord and Savior. The trouble the family had to face because of Dad's death convinced my brother that he could no longer stand alone. Shortly afterwards, one of my two sisters also turned to Jesus. A year later, my other sister was saved. And, finally, several years after Dad's death, my mother also became a Christian.

All of my family now believe in Jesus. Someday, in Heaven, we will all be together with Dad again. I don't think they would have ever felt the need for Jesus if Dad had not died when he did.

Life is short. Eternity is long. God takes the long view of what's best for us. He wants us to have the best of the best for all eternity. But sometimes long-term happiness requires some short-term pain.

Consider the child who insists on running out into the street without looking. A spanking will help the child remember to look first. The spanking hurts, but not as much as getting hit by a car. And the sting of the spanking only lasts for a few minutes, while being hit by a car can cripple the child for life.

\*\*\*\*\*

Yes, THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN who cares for us. Moses learned this great truth at the Red Sea.

For many years, the children of Israel had been in bondage. Then God called Moses and sent him down to Egypt to tell Pharaoh, "Let My people go." There followed many trials and disappointments, but at last they were released. Thousands and thousands started out on the long march towards the Promised Land.

But when they reached the Red Sea, it seemed impassable. They looked back and saw clouds of dust. The soldiers of Pharaoh were coming after them and their swords could be seen glistening in the sun.

The people were terrified. "Why did you bring us here to die?" they complained to Moses. "Were there no graves in Egypt. It

would have been better to remain slaves in Egypt than to die here in the wilderness."

Moses replied, "Pharaoh is a great king; his army is mighty and the sea is wide. But there is a God in Heaven, and He will deliver us!"

Then God directed Moses to hold his rod out over the sea. When he did, God parted the waters and the children of Israel crossed over to the other side safely. Pharaoh's army tried to follow, but God caused the waters to roll over them and they were drowned in the midst of the sea.

Have there been times of great distress for you? Have you been bound in on every side, knowing not which way to go? Has your pathway been full of dangers? Oh, just remember that there is a God in Heaven! Pour out your soul to Him, and He will open up the way and lead you into life and joy.

\*\*\*\*\*

Yes, THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN who cares for us. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego learned this great truth in the fiery furnace.

At one point during his reign, King Nebuchadnezzar built an image of gold and set it in the midst of the plains. The King then decreed that at a certain hour, all the people were to bow down and worship the image. If they didn't, they would be thrown into the fiery furnace.

When the hour came, there were three young Hebrew men who refused to bow down: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The King was furious. He sent for them and asked, "Why did you not bow down before the golden image?"

And they replied, "There is just one God. There is a God in Heaven, and we will not bow down to anyone or anything except Him. If you put us in the fiery furnace, we believe that He will deliver us. But, even if He does not, we STILL will not bow down to any other god."

The King was enraged. He told his servants, "Heat the furnace seven times hotter than ever and tie these young men up and throw them into the fire." They were thrown into the fiery furnace, but the fire did not hurt them.

The King came down to look. "Three men were thrown into the furnace," he said, "But now I see four, and the fourth is like unto the Son of God."

There may come a time when you are forced to take a stand either for or against God. It may mean persecution for you. But, remember, there is a God in Heaven. He has more power than anyone

else. Trust in Him and He will bring you out safely.

\*\*\*\*\*

Yes, THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN who cares for us. Peter learned this great truth in a prison cell.

Peter and the other apostles were preaching the Gospel and telling everyone how Jesus had died to save them. Herod, the chief politician, wanted to sway the people in his own favor. He killed the apostle James and threw Peter into prison, vowing to kill him too, the next day.

But, there is a God in Heaven, and Peter knew God. So he laid down and went to sleep. He was the only Christian asleep in Jerusalem that night. All the others were gathered together and were praying for his deliverance. God heard their prayer and sent an angel to release Peter and set him free.

Herod tried to destroy the christians, but there is a God in Heaven and He has said, "Touch not mine anointed." So, what happened to Herod?

One day, he was sitting on his throne, making a speech to the people. They applauded him and shouted, "It is the voice of a god." Suddenly the angel of the Lord struck him dead. Be careful how you treat God's servants, for there IS still a God in Heaven.

\*\*\*\*\*

Yes, THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN who cares for us. Remember this when you have sinned.

First, remember that God knows your sin. You look north, and south, and east, and west, and there is no one to witness your sin so you think you've gotten away with it. But God sees it!

Numbers 32:23 says, "...be sure your sin will find you out."

And, Galatians 6:7 says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

But also remember that God wants to forgive you. I John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Yonder is the prodigal son coming home. He knows that he has sinned; he feels the burden of it in his heart. He sees his father and cries out, "I have sinned, and am no more worthy to be called thy son."

But the father cuts off his confession; he does not let the boy say a word about his sin. He just wraps his loving arms around him and forgives him and says to the servants, "Bring out the best

that we have. My boy has come home." That's what God does when we come confessing our sins to Him.

\*\*\*\*\*

Yes, THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN who cares for us. Remember that in times of trouble and sorrow.

In the New International Version, II Corinthians 1:3-4 reads, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."

\*\*\*\*\*

Yes, THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN who cares for us. Remember that when you come to the end of the way.

One day, Old Death will come knocking at the door. You will not be able to keep the door locked and he will come in. The Devil may speak up and say, "I want this soul down in Hell with me."

But there is a God in Heaven, and He will say, "This soul is mine; I have redeemed him; He believed on My Son Jesus and he is safe now and forever!"

John 3:36 says, "He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life."

Romans 8:1 says, "There is...no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."

In John 10:29, Jesus said, "No man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

And I John 2:17 says, "He that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

\*\*\*\*\*

Yes, THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN who cares for us.

Trouble comes to everyone sooner or later. What should we do when it comes? The very first thing we should do is remind ourselves that THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN who cares for us.

When trouble comes, sing yourself that old favorite, "Jesus loves me, this I know; For the Bible tells me so."

Hallelujah! Amen!

END