

The Blessing of Favour: 4

Favour in The Fiery Furnace

Genesis 39.2-4

"The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found favour in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all *that* he had he put under his authority" - (AV)

A few weeks ago we were looking at the statement found in connection with Joseph - '*The Lord was with [him]*' (Genesis 39.2) – four times in chapter 39 we read those words. We noted that this statement applied to the Blessing of Favour upon him. Because the Lord was with him everything he did, and everything he handled was made to prosper. The favour of God was on him and with him, and it caused him to be promoted.

Last Sunday I finished with a Scripture from **Psalm 84.11**

"For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold From those who walk uprightly"

God gives grace and glory – His favour and His goodness.

He will not withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly (#8549) – in truth and integrity (BDB (1e) *in accordance with the truth*)

Daniel 1. 3-9

(v6) Four young men from the tribe of Judah were brought before the king: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. These four were captives brought to Babylon from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar (vs1-4).

(v5) They were given royal provisions and appointed a time of training so that they could serve the king.

(v7) we learn that their names are changed by the chief of the eunuchs – they are given Babylonian names

(v8) Daniel and the three others purpose that they are not going to partake of what the king has provided. They would not allow themselves to become defiled by eating food that had been offered to idols. So they requested not to eat of that food.

(v9) We have a similar statement made about Daniel (and the others) that was made of Joseph – God brought them into favour with the chief of eunuchs. The Blessing of Favour was upon them.

(v10) The request not to partake of the king's provisions gave the chief of eunuch a problem. He thought they would look malnourished when they stood before the king and consequently he would be killed for it.

(v11-16) Set a test! - give us just vegetables and water for ten days. Then examine us with the other young men and see how we look. After the test the four Jews appeared better and fatter than all of those who ate of the king's provisions.

(v17-20) God gave them wisdom, knowledge and skill in literature. To Daniel God gave understanding in visions and dreams. The favour of God is on them, blessing them, promoting them and bringing them before the king

Daniel 2.11-19

King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream but does not tell anyone what it is. He promises gifts, rewards and honour to the man who can tell the dream and its interpretation (v6) but no one is found that can tell or interpret the dream.

The king is angry when he is told that the dream is impossible to tell and he orders the execution of all the wise men in the land – which included Daniel and his three friends.

The favour of God is upon them – God reveals the dream and interpretation to Daniel

Why does God reveal the dream to Daniel, not because he is wise among all the men of Babylon but because God has a purpose – to let all of Babylon know that there is a God in heaven and that Heaven rules (v28, Daniel 4.25-26)

The favour of God promotes Daniel and Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego into positions over the affairs of the kingdom.

Daniel 3.13-30

Nebuchadnezzar makes and erects a gold image.

He instructs all in the kingdom to worship this image or suffer the consequences – the fiery furnace

He is told of Shadrach Meshach and Abed-Nego who refuse to bow down

(v14-15) They are given another opportunity to bow down and worship the image. He warns them that they will suffer the consequences if they do not obey, and he adds, there is no god that is able to deliver you.

(v16-17) The decision was easy – there was no need to answer the king. The favour of God was on these boys and they knew it.

If that is the case.. our God is able to deliver us..and He will deliver us.

(v18) But if not... (if you don't throw us in the fire ??) if God doesn't deliver us we still are not going to worship the gold image.

(v23) They were bound and thrown into the fire. Those who were throwing them into the fire were killed by the intensity of the heat

(v24-25) Did we not cast in three? I see four men walking, they are not hurt – the fourth is like the Son of God

(v26-27) They were brought out of the fire – the favour of God was upon them:

- the fire had no power over their bodies – no burns
- their hair was not singed
- the smell of the fire was not even on them
- the only thing that the fire had any power over was the ropes that bound them – they went in bound and were walking around

(v30) The favour of God promoted them

The Blessing of Favour will keep us and deliver us in the midst of trials.

Psalm 34.19

“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.”

This verse does not exempt Christians from problems and trials but it does promise that God will deliver us when we go through them.

He will be with us, His grace and favour are on us to deliver us.

When we go through the fire we have the confidence of His presence, His favour, His goodness with us.

“But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called *you* by your name; You are Mine. (2) When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. **When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.** (3) For I *am* the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Saviour; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place. (4) **Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honoured,** And I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life. (5) **Fear not, for I am with you;** I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west” **Isaiah 43.1-5**

(v4) honoured – this is the root word for glory,

(v5) I am with you – the Blessing in us and on us