

My God Shall Supply All Your Needs – lessons to learn

Paul wrote to the Philippians from a prison cell, and yet he could say with total confidence, "My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." That is not a verse for comfortable times. It is a verse forged in hardship, and if you want to see what it looks like in practice, you need only turn to Daniel chapters three to six. Four true stories, four impossible situations, and in every one of them God turns up and supplies exactly what His people need, often in ways nobody could have planned for.

Start with the fiery furnace in Daniel 3. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are given a straightforward choice: bow to the golden image or burn. Their answer is one of the great statements of faith in Scripture. Our God is able to deliver us, and even if He does not, we still will not bow. Notice what they needed was not rescue from the furnace but the presence of God in the furnace, and that is exactly what they got. Nebuchadnezzar looks in and sees a fourth man walking with them, and he is not touched by the fire at all, not even the smell of smoke on his clothes. I have sat with people going through genuinely fierce trials, redundancy, illness, grief, and the lesson is the same every time. God does not always take us out of the fire. Sometimes He simply walks into it with us, and that presence is the supply we actually needed all along.

Then in Daniel 4 we meet Nebuchadnezzar again, this time humbled to the point of madness, eating grass like an ox for seven years until he acknowledges that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men. What did this proud king need? Not more power, not more gold. He needed his reason restored and his heart humbled, and God supplied both, in that order. It is a strange kind of mercy, but mercy all the same. Sometimes what we ask for is comfort, and what we are given is correction, because correction is the thing that will actually save us.

Daniel 5 brings us Belshazzar and the writing on the wall. Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin. Weighed in the balances and found wanting. Here is a king who has everything except the one thing that matters, reverence for God, and that very night his kingdom is taken from him. It is a sobering picture, but even in judgement there is a kind of supply, because Daniel is brought in to speak the truth plainly, without flattery, without softening it for royal ears. God supplies truth-tellers when a nation needs waking up, and He is still doing that today.

And then Daniel 6, the lions' den, perhaps the most loved of all. Daniel keeps praying three times a day with his window open toward Jerusalem, knowing full well what the penalty will be. He is thrown to the lions, and in the morning he says, "My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths." What did Daniel need that night? Not comfort, not an easy way out. He needed his mouth to still work in the morning to give God the glory, and that is precisely what was supplied.

Across these four chapters the pattern holds. God does not simply meet felt needs. He meets real needs, presence in the furnace, humility for the proud, truth for the compromised, protection for the faithful. That is the God we serve, and He has not changed. When I was younger I was taught, mostly by watching ordinary people pray for the sick and step out in simple obedience, that faith is not a theory you hold, it is something you do. Daniel and his friends did not simply believe God could supply their needs. They acted as though He would, before they had any evidence, and He met them in the acting. Whatever furnace, whatever den, whatever wall you are facing this week, take heart. The same God who shut the lions' mouths is still able, and still willing, to supply exactly what you need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Questions for Discussion

1. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego chose obedience before they knew whether God would deliver them. Where in your life is God asking for that same kind of trust, faith that acts before it sees the outcome? (**Hebrews 11:1**)
2. God's supply in the furnace was His presence, not escape from the fire. Recall a hard season where you sensed God with you even though the difficulty itself was not removed? (**Isaiah 43:2**)
3. Nebuchadnezzar needed correction, not comfort, and that correction became his mercy. Is there an area where you have been asking God for relief when what you may need is humbling? (**Hebrews 12:6**)
4. Daniel spoke the truth to Belshazzar, without softening it. What might it cost you to speak an honest word to someone this week? What might God supply to help you do it? (**Ephesians 4:15**)
5. Daniel kept his normal rhythm of prayer even under threat of death. What ordinary habit of faith might you need to keep, or start, no matter what pressure comes against it? (**Daniel 6:10**)