

DELIVERANCE
Part 6b
“Instruments of Deliverance”
(Circumstances)
2 Tim. 3:10-11

INTRODUCTION

We saw last week how that God has used various instruments to deliver His people out from trials. We saw that He used nature; He used men; and He used angels. Today we will find that God also uses circumstances to deliver His people out from trials. When we say circumstances, we mean that God, by intervening into the natural processes of life; whether they be the court systems; councils or other constructs, to rescue His people out of trials.

I. GOD USED CIRCUMSTANCES TO DELIVER HIS PEOPLE OUT OF TRIALS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

A. God delivered David from his enemies and from Saul. Ps. 18:1

1. The word for “delivered” is *natsal* -- **to snatch away, rescue** -- akin to *phueomai* in the Greek. Cf. Gen. 32:11 (of Jacob being delivered from Esau)
2. God rescued David from his enemies. cf. 2 Sam. 22:1 (David sang a song of God’s deliverance)
 - a) He provided for David to escape from the king Achish of Gath (he pretended to be a madman) 1st Sam. 21:12- 22:1)
 - b) God provided for David to escape from Saul 1st Sam. 23:7-14 (God protected David as Saul sought him); 26:8, 23 (David had several occasions to kill Saul)

B. God used circumstances to deliver Israel in the wilderness. Ps. 107:6, 20

1. Israel “cried” (*tasaq* -- **“to shriek; by implication, proclaim”** --Strong’s lexicon) cf. Ex. 5:15 (of Israel crying to Pharaoh)
2. “Trouble” -- *tsar* -- **“narrow, tight, straits, distress”** -- BDB cf. Job 15:24 (translated anguish)
3. They were delivered them out of “distress” -- *metsuqah* -- is used in the Old Testament of ***an inward turmoil that brings anguish and despair***. Cf. Ps. 25:17 (expressed by David due to sin)

C. God’s giving of Joseph an ability to interpret dreams led to his deliverance out of prison and his rise to second in command in Egypt. Acts 7:10

1. God delivered him out of his afflictions. Vs.10
2. God gave him “favour” (*chen*) in the sight of Pharaoh. Cf. Gen. 39:4 (of Potiphar); vs. 21 (of the keeper of the prison)

3. God gave him “wisdom” in the sight of Pharaoh. Gen. 41:38-39
4. Pharaoh made him “governor” over:
 - a) Egypt. Gen. 41:40-44
 - b) All his house. Gen. 41:40

II. GOD USED CIRCUMSTANCES TO DELIVER THE APOSTLE PAUL OUT OF PERSECUTIONS. 2 Tim. 3:11

- A. The apostle Paul lists two types of sufferings that came to him in Asia. 2 Tim. 3:11 cf. Acts 14:19,21
 1. He suffered “persecutions” -- diogmos -- ***pursuits due to contradictions of belief***. Cf. Acts 8:1 (of Saul persecuting the church); Acts 13:50 (of Paul and Barnabas being persecuted) .
 2. He suffered “afflictions” -- pathema -- ***the result of an act of suffering***. Cf. 1st Pet. 1:11 (of the sufferings of Christ); Heb. 10:32 (of the Jewish believers); Rom. 8:18 (not worthy to be compared to the glory)
- B. Scripture reflects two sides of trials for a believer. Vs. 11
 1. Paul “endured” (hupophero -- ***to bear up under***) them. Cf. 1st Pet. 2:19 (God desires this response from a believer in these circumstances)
 2. The Lord “delivered” (rhuomai --- rescue from danger) him. Cf. Matt. 27:43 (of the Lord being delivered from the cross); 2 Tim. 4:18 (of God delivering Paul out from every evil work); 2 Pet. 2:9 (of the Lord delivering the godly out of trials)
- C. Prayer played an integral role in God’s deliverance from persecution.
 1. Paul urged the Romans to communicate for him to be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea. Rom. 15:31
 2. Paul urged the Thessalonians to communicate for him to be delivered from evil men. 2 Thess. 3:1-2

CONCLUSION