

IN A PIT WITH A LION ON A SNOWY DAY

A People of “Great Exploits” in The Last Days

SCRIPTURE FORETELLS that a people will emerge in the last days of human history who will do “great exploits,” extraordinary deeds, for the advancement of God’s kingdom. They will deliver might blows to the kingdom of darkness and achieve its total demise. Theirs will not be a military conquest, however, but rather a spiritual one. The secret of their power and victory will lie in the cross of Christ. In word and deed, they will communicate to the world the love of God as it was manifested in Christ. Calvary, as the zenith revelation of God’s love, will be the focus of their personal experience and their evangelistic witness. They will “look upon” the crucified One and be deeply transformed by the beauty of character they see in Him, and they will take that vision to the world with unprecedented power. The kingdom of darkness will fall—and only fall—when God’s mighty men and women turn their studied gaze to Calvary and proclaim His love in clarifying contrast to the entire edifice of lies Satan has build against the character of God.

NOTE: By the way, God likes you.

DAVID’S MIGHTY MEN

1 Chronicles 11:10, 22-23, NLT—¹⁰David’s mighty men. . .performed great exploits. ²²There was also Benaiah son of Jehoiada, a valiant warrior from Kabzeel. He did many heroic deeds, which included killing two champions of Moab. Another time, on a snowy day, he chased a lion down into a pit and killed it. ²³Once, armed only with a club, he killed an Egyptian warrior who was 7½ feet tall and whose spear was as thick as a weaver’s beam. Benaiah wrenched the spear from the Egyptian’s hand and killed him with it.

MESSIAH’S END-TIME MIGHTY MEN

Zechariah 12:8, 10—⁸In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them. . . ¹⁰And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

The Faith I Live By, p. 50—There is one great central truth to be kept ever before the mind in the searching of the Scriptures—Christ and Him crucified. Every other truth is invested with influence and power corresponding to its relation to this theme.

The Desire of Ages, p. 22—The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God’s government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan.

RAGE AGAINST THE HOLY COVENANT

Daniel 7:21, 25—21 I was watching, and the same horn was making war against the saints. . . **25** He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, and shall persecute the saints war against the saints.

Revelation 13:6—He opened his mouth in blaspheme [slander, defamation] against God, to blaspheme His name [character].

Daniel 8:11-12, 25—¹¹He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the hosts. . . ¹²[and] cast truth down to the ground. . . ²⁵Through cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule. And he shall exalt himself in his heart. . . He shall even rise against the Prince of the princes; but he shall be broken without human means.

Daniel 11:28—²⁸His heart shall be moved against the holy covenant. . . ³⁰rage against the holy covenant, and do damage. . . ³²Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. . . ³⁶He shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods and shall prosper. . . ⁴⁴News from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.

WHAT IS THE HOLY COVENANT?

Daniel 11:22— . . .the Prince of the Covenant.

Daniel 9:26-27—²⁶Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself. . . ²⁷He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

Isaiah 55:3, NIV—I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love [*hesed*] promised to David.

Exodus 35:28—He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

Exodus 31:12-16—¹²My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you. . . ¹⁴You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy. . . ¹⁶the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.

Isaiah 56: 4, 6—⁴ . . .keep My Sabbaths, and choose what pleases Me, and hold fast My covenant. . . ⁶everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant.

THE VICTORY OF GOD'S END-TIME PEOPLE

Revelation 12:17—The Dragon was enraged with the woman, and went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God. . .

Revelation 15:2—I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

“Though unable to expel God from His throne, Satan has charged God with satanic attributes, and has claimed the attributes of God as his own” (*Review and Herald*, April 14, 1896).

Lucifer “misrepresented God, attributing to him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men. He led them to doubt the Word of God, and to distrust His goodness” (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 21, 22).

NOTE: *Exploits:* extraordinary deeds; extreme achievements. In the larger biblical context of Scripture, what are these end-time people doing? They are advocates of the God’s holy covenant of faithful love enshrined in His Law, embodied in Christ, and signified by the Sabbath. Satan and his system of counterfeit Christianity are enraged against the holy covenant: that is, against the Law, the gospel and the Sabbath which is the sign of both.

Victory over:

- *the beast*=the entire false system of God-defaming theology and worship embodied in the Papal church
- *his image*=the up-and-coming formation by Protestant America of a governmental system patterned after the Papal Church-state, resulting in a repudiation of the US constitution’s freedom of conscience principle
- *his mark*=Sunday legislation and enforcement, in effect employing force in the name of God contrary to the principle of non-coercive love