

# II PETER

And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;



## WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

**RIGHTEOUSNESS** may keep you from evil in the dangerous days ahead

### PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE PART I

WELCOME! This is our first edition concerning 'Preparing for the Future' as we mentioned in our introduction to our fourth year of the WCF a week ago.

To summarise briefly what this is about :

**These 12 weeks (editions) will tentatively at this stage, include:**

5 editions on our spiritual preparedness;

2 editions on practical preparedness; and

5 editions on the state of the world today and the coming future as we at WCF see it!

So here is the first edition of 'spiritual preparedness' for the future, and it is an interesting topic called 'Righteousness!'

**How can righteousness prepare you for a dangerous future? And how can it save you in it?** Some excellent questions. We will go through the whole scenario in a couple of pages time, but first, we must define what Righteousness actually is or isn't!

The Merriam-Webster dictionary says **Righteousness is: acting in accord with divine or moral law : free from guilt or sin.**

We have to be acting according to and obeying the Word of God to obtain God's righteousness. He gives it to us or 'accounts' that we now have it for obeying, it is clear we have none of our own in the natural man or woman as the Bible says;

**Isaiah 64:6**

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as **filthy rags**; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

**Psalms 39:5**

Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is **altogether vanity**. Selah. (King David probably)

**Psalms 106:31**

And **that was counted unto him** for righteousness unto all generations **for evermore**. (to Abraham)

**Romans 4:3**

**For** what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was **counted unto him for**

**righteousness.** (Paul)

**Romans 7:18**

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) **dwelleth no good thing**: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is **good** I find **not**. (Apostle Paul)

**Once we understand from the Bible these main points, that Righteousness doesn't naturally live in us, but is rather gained by obedience**, in God's eyes, then we can see that it is all a gift, and something we can also strive to obtain by obedience.

Once we have the 'Righteousness of God' by faith, we are walking in a whole new world.

### **Righteousness in the Old Testament. (OT)**

I have noticed that people in the OT judged so much by how righteous they were or someone else was. They knew that some people were 'more righteous than them', or vice versa. A bit like some people say today: 'You are a better man/woman than me!'

**Here are just a few examples.**

**1 Samuel 28**

And Samuel said unto him (King Saul), The Lord hath rent the kingdom of Israel

from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, **that is better than thou.**

Genesis 38:26

And Judah acknowledged them, and said, She hath been **more righteous than I**; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son. And he knew her again no **more.**

1 Samuel 24:17

And he said to David, Thou art **more righteous than I**: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.

Job 35:2

Thinkest thou this to be right, that thou saidst, My **righteousness** is more than God's?

Psalms 52:3

Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah.

**So, this principle was very clear in the Old Testament, even among the heathen to some degree.**

**How can Righteousness save us from trouble, wars famine and death?**

**Moving to the main point, we see so many scriptures in the Bible where people were delivered in many difficulties.**

Their deliverance was promised in some cases by God due the person's or people's love for God. I think now, after studying this, that there must be around 100 verses on this, so I will pick out about ten and you will see the scripture shows this.

1 Samuel 17:46

This day **will** the LORD **deliver thee** into mine hand; and **I will** smite **thee**, and take thine head from thee; and **I will** give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Young David, knew in his heart, God was going to deliver him from Goliath, because his people at that time were under a Covenant with God.

2 Kings 20:6

And **I will** add unto thy days fifteen years; and **I will deliver thee** and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and **I will** defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. God (Isaiah) speaking to King Hezekiah.

Psalms 50:15

And call upon me in the day of trouble: **I will deliver thee**, and thou shalt glorify me. We simply have to cry out to God in 'the day of trouble', and He promises to deliver us!

Jeremiah 15:20

And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brasen wall: and they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee: for I am with thee to save thee and to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 39:17

But **I will deliver thee** in that day, saith the LORD: and thou shalt not be given into the hand of the men of whom thou art afraid.

Jeremiah 39:18

For **I will** surely **deliver thee**, and thou shalt not fall by the

sword, but thy life shall be for a prey unto **thee**: because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the LORD. (God's promise to Baruch through the mouth of Jeremiah, which came to pass!)

Daniel 6:16



Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he **will deliver thee.**

Acts 7:34

**I** have seen, **I** have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to **deliver** them. And now come, **I will** send **thee** into Egypt.

**2 Peter 2:6** And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

**7** And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

**8** For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

Lot here is called a righteous man, and for that righteousness, the Lord delivered him in a very merciful way from an imminent danger, even going so far as to send angels to make sure he escaped (albeit somewhat

reluctantly).

Your spirit, like mine these past few years may often be vexed with the filthy lifestyles (conversations) of the wicked. Life cannot go on like this, and we know this from so many prophecies about the end time, the stuff may hit the fan any day now in the western world. We should look and expect the Lord to deliver us in time of trouble, even by miraculous means, cooperating with Him, and other precious believers. (Acts 8:1)

Joseph's **righteousness** enabled a whole nation to be saved.

Daniel's **righteousness** and spiritual conviction brought him into high places, so that he was even called 'greatly beloved' by the Angelic messenger. The Lord delivered him in the final testing.

Daniel also offered



Nebuchadnezzar to be healed and saved by accepting Righteousness:

**Daniel 4:27**

Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and **break off thy sins** by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; **if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity. If Nebuchadnezzar had accepted this advice, which ultimately he didn't, he could have been spared that 7 years in the wilderness as a crazed person. Please see the whole amazing story in Daniel 4!**

Tabitha's (Dorcas) **righteousness**

delivered her from death. Acts 9:36 to end

Cornelius' **righteousness** brought him salvation as the first gentile won to Christ. Acts 10, the whole chapter.

And look at this, some unusual verses, I am not sure so many people know about!

**Ezekiel 14:14**

even if these three men—Noah, **Daniel** and **Job**—were in it, they could save only themselves by their **righteousness**, declares the Sovereign LORD.

**Ezekiel 14:20**

as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, even if Noah, Daniel and Job were in it, they could save neither son nor daughter. They would save only themselves by their **righteousness**.

Wowee, wow! God here shows clearly that **righteousness** when you have it, **ONLY** belongs to you, it cannot even necessarily be extended to your children, unless they are also following God! Every one must give account of themselves to God. This is a prime verse, a special verse. Here the Lord shares his top three (apparently **righteous** people in the Bible) they all delivered themselves through their own righteousness and obedience to God. I would encourage you to think and pray long and hard about these verses and the ones above, and use them as a springboard to get ready for the future events! .

So, will your **righteousness** and obedience to Jesus Christ, deliver or save you in the dangerous times?

Well, there is no better place to start than with the entire **PSALM 91** which is entirely worth memorising and claiming in the dangerous time!

1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

12 They shall bear thee up in



their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

God bless you.

I feel I am just scratching the surface of this vast topic of Righteousness. There is way more in the Bible, let's ask God for His Righteousness, ask Him how to be more obedient, forsake any sins we know we are presently or for some time struggling with and ask Him to help us get ready for the overflowing flood which is coming

Love in Christ

Jerry for the WCF Team

and to close, here are a few more general verses about this in the Word.

**Psalm 32:6**

For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

**Isaiah 55:6**

Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

**Proverbs 14:34**

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

**Genesis 18:24**

Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? (Abraham speaking with the Lord).

**Hosea 2:19**

thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

**Hosea 10:12**

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.



[BibleGateway - Keyword Search: righteous](#)



on the world, dearest brethren.

And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth

FOR AS IN THE DAYS THAT WERE BEFORE THE FLOOD THEY WERE EATING AND DRINKING, MARRYING AND GIVING IN MARRIAGE, UNTIL THE DAY THAT NOE ENTERED INTO THE ARK,

AND KNEW NOT UNTIL THE FLOOD CAME, AND TOOK THEM ALL AWAY; SO SHALL ALSO THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN BE.



Prayer is never an acceptable substitute for obedience. The sovereign Lord accepts no offering from His creatures that is not accompanied by obedience. To pray for revival while ignoring or actually flouting the plain precept laid down in the Scriptures is to waste a lot of words and get nothing for our trouble.

— Aiden Wilson Tozer —

AZ QUOTES

IF YOU KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS, YOU WILL  
ABIDE IN MY LOVE, JUST AS I HAVE KEPT MY  
FATHER'S COMMANDMENTS AND ABIDE IN  
HIS LOVE.

JOHN 15:10

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