

# Deliverance From Evil

Daniel 3:1-30

Psalm 140

Matthew 14:22-33

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**The Lord's Prayer is all about God; Who He is and what He does for us.** Jesus teaches us to focus our attention on God the Father in this prayer; to *look to Him for all good things*; and to *turn to Him in times of trouble*. **The Lord's Prayer is all about God!**

- † When we pray "**Our Father in Heaven**," we acknowledge Him as the **Source** of our lives
- † When we pray "**Hallowed be Thy name**," we declare Him as **Sacred**.
- † When we pray, "**Thy Kingdom come**," we proclaim Him as our **Sovereign King**.
- † When we pray, "**Thy Will be done**," we realize His **Superior ways**.
- † When we pray, "**Give us this day our daily bread**," we believe that He is the **Supplier** of our needs.
- † When we pray, "**Forgive us our sins**," we confess Him as our **Savior**.
- † When we pray, "**Lead us not into temptation**," we rely on His power to **Shelter** of our lives.
- † And when we pray, "**Deliver us from evil**," we are dependent on His **Strength** to conquer evil.

Today we continue our series on the Lord's Prayer by looking at the petition "**Deliver us from Evil**".

The word "**deliver**" means **to rescue and to save**. The word picture is that of being drawn out of a pit; or rescued from danger, like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

We heard the OT story today of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; 3 godly men who were thrown into a fiery furnace for not bowing down to King Nebuchadnezzar's idol. In dramatic fashion, God **delivered** them from their evil; He rescued them from certain death. The fascinating thing is that when King Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace, he saw **4 men** walking around ---- and “*one looked like a son of the gods*”.

Nebuchadnezzar may not have known who **delivered** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that day, but we do. **It was Jesus, Who is the Son of God, and He delivers every one of us from certain death as well.**

The first and foremost way that God the Father in Heaven **delivers** you from evil is by saving you from **eternal death** from sin and guilt. Every one of us has a sinful nature that is hostile to God; your sinful nature wars against God and His Word; it looks for ways to disobey His commands, and it is wholeheartedly self-centered. Your conscience bears witness to yourself that you have sinned; that you are guilty; and that death is the consequence of sin.

But this is exactly what God the Father **delivers** you from. He sent His Son Jesus Christ to take your place under that sin and guilt. He suffered and was punished for your sin; He carried your guilt all the way to the cross ... where He died. He died for you; in your place, as your substitute.

In His Resurrection from the dead on the Third Day, He gives you, and *new spiritual life* while you live and *eternal life* when you die.

**The Seventh Petition:** Deliver us from evil.

*What does this mean?*

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and **finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.**

In the Lord's Prayer, we confess that God **has delivered** us from the of sin, guilt and death in Jesus' death and resurrection; and we pray that He will **continue** to protect and defend us from all other evil throughout our lives. We pray that He *deliver us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation.*

There is a verse in 2 Corinthians that uses the word “**deliver**” 3 times. St Paul is talking about his life, and all the danger, peril, and unknowns that He faced as an Apostle. He wrote this:

He **has delivered** us from such a deadly peril, and He **does deliver** us. On Him we have set our hope that He **will continue to deliver** us. 2 Corinthians 1:10

St Paul uses **three different verb tenses** to capture God's ever present help in our lives.

The Lord **has**, He **is** and He **will**  
**deliver you from evil.**

Haven't you seen that in your life?

- † How many “close calls” have you had? “Close calls” make you realize that God is present in your life and ‘*delivering you from evil*’. As disciples, we do not believe in “accidents” or “coincidences”. “Close calls” and “brushes with death” are evidence of God's *delivering you from evil*.
- † Has God ever spared you from terrible consequences of your sin --- Something you have done could have turned your whole life in a different direction --- it could have been a disaster for you; but God *delivered* you from the terrible consequences your sin.

- † Haven't you seen God work in mysterious ways in your life? That is *God delivering you from evil.*
- † Whenever I get delayed – like at a stop light -- and my patience is wearing thin, I think that God is slowing me down and protecting me from something ... *delivering me from some unknown evil.*
- † Of course, The Bible teaches us that our Father in Heaven is always at work in our problems, pain and crisis' working for good, and *delivering you from evil.*

In the Lord's Prayer, we are asking our Father in Heaven to *deliver us from evil:* and he does! He has in the **past**, He is now doing so in the **present**, and He will **continue** to do so throughout your life!

*Finally one other thing.* It is possible to translate this passage from the Lord's Prayer as “**deliver us from the evil one.**” In that case, we are asking our Father in Heaven to protect us from the devil and his depraved demons. Jesus teaches us that there is an unseen enemy who works against your body and soul, possessions and reputation. The devil may be a prowling lion looking to devour you, but you are asking your heavenly father to protect you and to deliver you. And he does. He has given you his word, holy scripture, to teach you the truth and know the ways of righteousness and holiness. The word of God exposes the lies and the deceptions of Satan, and they cannot deceive you. When Jesus died on the cross, he crushed satan's head , and destroyed the power of the devil in your life. When we pray deliver us from evil in the Lord's prayer, it is appropriate to think that God is delivering us from the evil one. He does it through his son and through his word, both which are given freely to you.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, not only are we praying, but we are also confessing our faith. We believe that our Father in Heaven

**has, is and will deliver us from evil!** AMEN!

Our Father who art in heaven,  
we thank you that you deliver us from evil.  
Help us to know and believe that as we go  
through difficult and painful times.  
Send us the Holy Spirit so that we may trust in  
You and Your promises.  
Strengthen our faith so that we believe and  
confess that You have delivered us, you are  
delivering us and that you will deliver us  
throughout our lives.  
We pray this in Jesus' Name, amen.

## Daniel 3:1-3, 8-30

King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue 90 feet high and 9 feet wide. He set it up in a recessed area in the wall in the province of Babylon. 2 King Nebuchadnezzar sent messengers to assemble the satraps, governors, mayors, military advisers, treasurers, judges, officers, and all the other provincial officials to dedicate the statue he had set up. 3 Then the satraps, governors, mayors, military advisers, treasurers, judges, officers, and all the other provincial officials assembled to dedicate the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. They stood in front of the statue.

8 After that happened, some astrologers came forward and brought charges against the Jews. 9 They addressed King Nebuchadnezzar, “Your Majesty, may you live forever! 10 Your Majesty, you gave an order that everyone who hears the sound of rams’ horns, flutes, lyres, harps, and three-stringed harps playing at the same time with all other kinds of instruments should bow down and worship the gold statue. 11 Your order said that whoever doesn’t bow down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. 12 There are certain Jews whom you appointed to govern the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men didn’t obey your order, Your Majesty. They don’t honor your gods or worship the statue that you set up.” 13 Then, in a fit of rage and anger, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Immediately, they were brought to the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar asked them, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, is it true that you don’t honor my gods or worship the gold statue that I set up? 15 When you hear the sound of the rams’ horns, flutes, lyres, harps, and three-stringed harps playing at the same time with all other kinds of instruments, will you bow down and worship the gold statue I made? If you don’t worship it, you will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace. What god can save you from my power then?”

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, “We don’t need to answer your last question. 17 If our God, whom we honor, can save us from a blazing furnace and from your power, he will, Your Majesty. 18 But if he doesn’t, you should know, Your Majesty, we’ll never honor your gods or worship the gold statue that you set up.”

19 Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with anger toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face turned red. He ordered that the furnace should be heated seven times hotter than normal. 20 He told some soldiers from his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego so that they could be thrown into the blazing furnace. 21 Then the three men were thrown into the blazing furnace. They were wearing their clothes, hats, and other clothing. 22 The king's order was so urgent and the furnace was so extremely hot that the men who carried Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were killed by the flames from the fire. 23 So these three men—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—fell into the blazing furnace. They were still tied up. 24 Then Nebuchadnezzar was startled. He sprang to his feet. He asked his advisers, “Didn’t we throw three men into the fire?” “That’s true, Your Majesty,” they answered. 25 The king replied, “But look, I see four men. They’re untied, walking in the middle of the fire, and unharmed. The fourth one looks like a son of the gods.” 26 Then Nebuchadnezzar went to the door of the blazing furnace and said, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—servants of the Most High God—come out here.” Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire. 27 The king’s satraps, governors, mayors, and advisers gathered around the three men. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies. The hair on their heads wasn’t singed, their clothes weren’t burned, and they didn’t smell of smoke. 28 Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He sent his angel and saved his servants, who trusted him. They disobeyed the king and risked their lives so that they would not have to honor or worship any god except their own God. 29 So I order that people from every province, nation, or language who say anything slanderous about the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be torn limb from limb. Their houses will be turned into piles of rubble. No other god can rescue like this.” 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to higher positions in the province of Babylon.

## Psalm 140

1 Rescue me from evil people, O Lord. Keep me safe from violent people. 2 They plan evil things in their hearts. They start fights every day. 3 They make their tongues as sharp as a snake's fang. Their lips hide the venom of poisonous snakes. 4 Protect me from the hands of wicked people, O Lord. Keep me safe from violent people. They try to trip me. 5 Arrogant people have laid a trap for me. They have spread out a net with ropes. They have set traps for me along the road. 6 I said to the Lord, "You are my God." O Lord, open your ears to hear my plea for pity. 7 O Lord Almighty, the strong one who saves me, you have covered my head in the day of battle. 8 O Lord, do not give wicked people what they want. Do not let their evil plans succeed, or they will become arrogant. 9 Let the heads of those who surround me be covered with their own threats. 10 Let burning coals fall on them. Let them be thrown into a pit, never to rise again. 11 Do not let slanderers prosper on earth. Let evil hunt down violent people with one blow after another. 12 I know that the Lord will defend the rights of those who are oppressed and the cause of those who are needy. 13 Indeed, righteous people will give thanks to your name. Decent people will live in your presence.

## Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. 25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" 32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."