

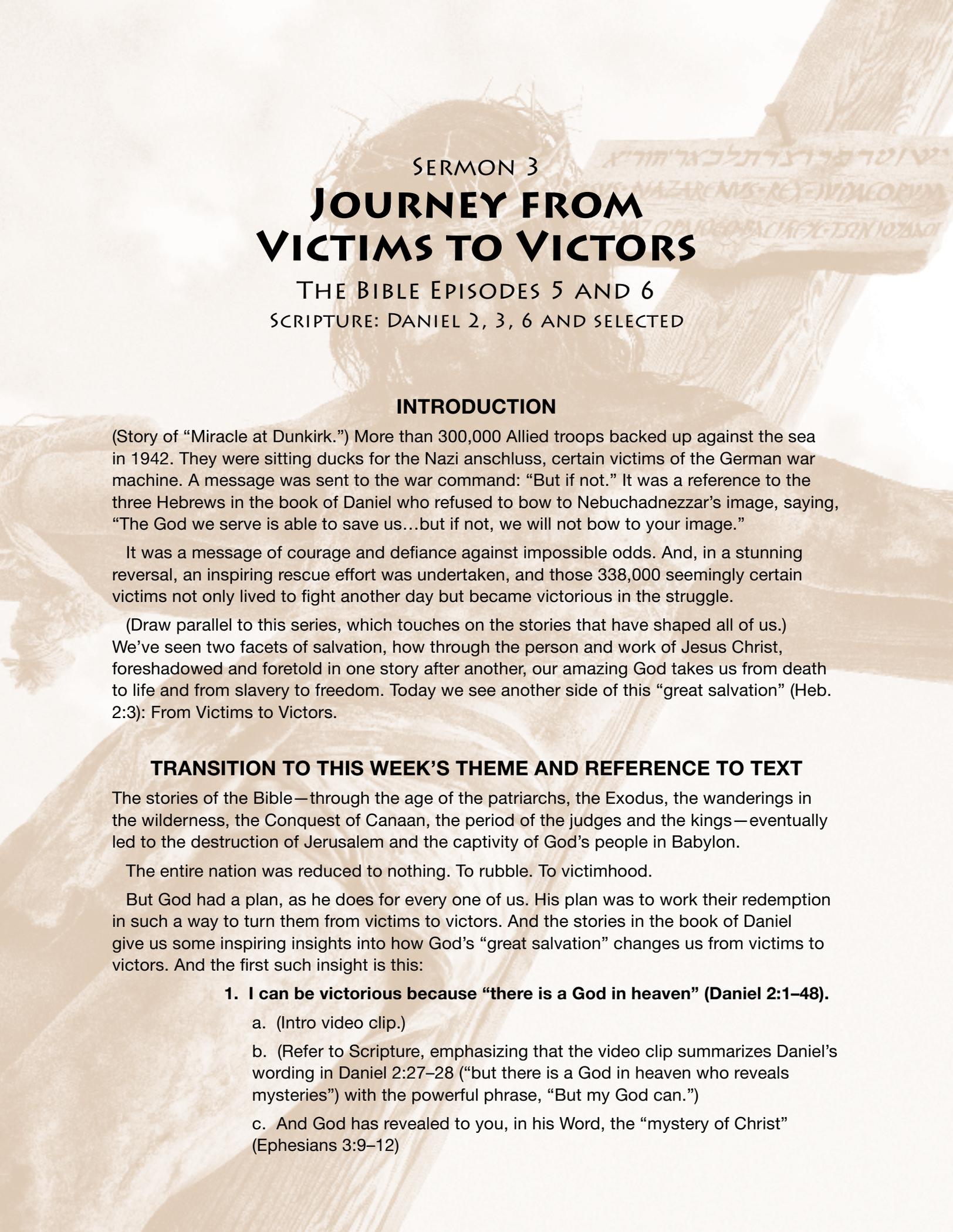


SERMON 3

# JOURNEY FROM VICTIMS TO VICTORS

THE BIBLE EPISODES 5 AND 6

*SCRIPTURE: DANIEL 2, 3, 6  
AND OTHER PASSAGES*



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SCRIPTURE: DANIEL 2, 3, 6 AND SELECTED

## INTRODUCTION

(Story of “Miracle at Dunkirk.”) More than 300,000 Allied troops backed up against the sea in 1942. They were sitting ducks for the Nazi anschluss, certain victims of the German war machine. A message was sent to the war command: “But if not.” It was a reference to the three Hebrews in the book of Daniel who refused to bow to Nebuchadnezzar’s image, saying, “The God we serve is able to save us...but if not, we will not bow to your image.”

It was a message of courage and defiance against impossible odds. And, in a stunning reversal, an inspiring rescue effort was undertaken, and those 338,000 seemingly certain victims not only lived to fight another day but became victorious in the struggle.

(Draw parallel to this series, which touches on the stories that have shaped all of us.) We’ve seen two facets of salvation, how through the person and work of Jesus Christ, foreshadowed and foretold in one story after another, our amazing God takes us from death to life and from slavery to freedom. Today we see another side of this “great salvation” (Heb. 2:3): From Victims to Victors.

## TRANSITION TO THIS WEEK’S THEME AND REFERENCE TO TEXT

The stories of the Bible—through the age of the patriarchs, the Exodus, the wanderings in the wilderness, the Conquest of Canaan, the period of the judges and the kings—eventually led to the destruction of Jerusalem and the captivity of God’s people in Babylon.

The entire nation was reduced to nothing. To rubble. To victimhood.

But God had a plan, as he does for every one of us. His plan was to work their redemption in such a way to turn them from victims to victors. And the stories in the book of Daniel give us some inspiring insights into how God’s “great salvation” changes us from victims to victors. And the first such insight is this:

**1. I can be victorious because “there is a God in heaven” (Daniel 2:1–48).**

- a. (Intro video clip.)
- b. (Refer to Scripture, emphasizing that the video clip summarizes Daniel’s wording in Daniel 2:27–28 (“but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries”) with the powerful phrase, “But my God can.”)
- c. And God has revealed to you, in his Word, the “mystery of Christ” (Ephesians 3:9–12)

**2. I can be victorious because my God “is able to save” (Daniel 3:8–27).**

- a. (Tell story of the three Hebrews, emphasizing Dan. 3:17–18: “The God we serve is able to save us,” even adding, “But if not” they would remain faithful to him.)
- b. You and I can have that kind of confidence, too.
  - i. He was able to save Noah and his family from the flood.
  - ii. He was able to save his people from slavery in Egypt.
  - iii. He was able to save the nation of Israel from oppression by Philistines, Moabites, and Edomites.

**3. I can be victorious because “my God sent” (Daniel 6:22).**

- a. (Summarize story of Daniel in the lion’s den, ending with v. 22 in which Daniel reports to the king that “my God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths.”)
- b. You and I can say the same, except that God did not send an angel but a son: John 3:16 (perhaps also refer to the nativity shown in Episode 6). His ability—and willingness—to save is most powerfully shown in the coming of Jesus to earth and the cross by which he worked salvation.
- c. (Consider referring to worship song, “Mighty to Save”)

**APPLICATION**

1. Listen to what Daniel said after the mystery of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was revealed to him: Daniel 2:20b–22
2. Listen to what Nebuchadnezzar said after Daniel’s friends were delivered through the fiery furnace: Daniel 3:29b: “No other god can save in this way.”
3. Listen to what King Darius said after God saved Daniel from the lions’ den: Daniel 6:26b–27.

God’s “great salvation” provides victory over death, sin, and the devil, and it can be yours today.

(Lead in prayer of salvation and prayer for victory in whatever hearers may be facing.)

Complete sermons are available in *The Bible 30-Day Church Experience Kit*. [Learn More](#).