

Introduction:

- I was reading the book of Daniel on vacation and each time I read it Daniel 2:28 stood out to me. Daniel 2:28 *"But there is a God..."* Daniel in the midst of an impossible situation (Telling the king his dream and then the interpretation) of which no person could do it. Daniel responds.... "What you ask is impossible but there is God! This led me on a study of two words found strategically in the Bible: "But God!"
- We have all heard people say, "I would have died...But God." "I would have lost it all...But God." "We were doomed...but God." "I was bound for a devils hell...But God!"
- In 'but God' moments, He remembers, He accompanies, He protects and He saves!
- Note: To go deeper, see Bible Study Series: 'But God Bible Verses' Iain Gordon

I. What is a "But God" experience?

- A. It is an experience that appears as if all is about to be lost but God steps in and intervenes on our behalf.
 1. A 'but God' experience is an experience that if God does not step in and help us, we are done/finished.
 2. A 'but God' experience is almost always related to a trying, troubling, impossible time we are going through.
 3. A 'but God' experience is a time when God needs to step in... now! Catching on to what a 'but God' experience is?
- B. You can expect a 'but God' moment to occur...
 1. When you are going through an incredibly difficult time in your life when all you have is a 'but God' moment to deliver you.
 2. When you are faced with the impossible, and there is no way out, look for a 'but God' moment.
 3. When you are all out of options and you need God to step in now, you are ripe for a 'but God' moment.
 4. On the flip side, do not expect a 'but God' moment when all is well in your life... Just sayin'.
- C. 'But God' moments always occur in the storms of our life. They are like 'detours' only much more severe, urgent and pressing.
- D. There are many in scripture that experienced a 'but God' moment and we will look at some of them today and learn from them.

II. But God Remembered Noah

- A. The first 'but God' moment in the Bible was in the one of the biggest storms of life ever! *"But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided."* (Genesis 8:1, ESV)

- B. Context: 8:11,12; 17-24. Noah and family are in the biggest storm ever!
1. Fountains of the deep opened up.
 2. Heavens opened up. And it rained for forty days and 40 nights.
 3. Waters prevailed and all flesh not on the boat died.
 4. Think about the force of this flood! Rain for 40 days and nights, 150 days the seas swelled. 360 days at sea...with no experience. No weather radar locating storms, lightning strikes, and wind speeds. No report of ocean currents. To Noah, everything seemed taking longer. Then...
- C. "But God remembered"! How many find that exciting?
1. I find that very concerning. Did God forget for a few days? I have never thought of God as being forgetful. Was He busy with something else and suddenly it occurred to Him what He had started? I never thought of God being distracted either. No, I do not see God as being forgetful or distracted.
 - a) God remembered is a statement of His faithfulness and His loving kindness. Heb. - Hessed. God remembers = God never forgets!
 - b) Heb. - *Zakar* does mean "to remember," but it also means "to bring someone to mind and then act upon that person's behalf." The Hebrew idea of remembering always includes acting on behalf of the one brought to mind."

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 2. From a human perspective, have you ever had a time in your life where it seemed that God has forgotten you? I bet you were in a storm of your life weren't you? God seemed to be dragging His feet in responding, delayed in answering. When we find our selves in a life storm, God always seems delayed or un-answering. He never seems quick enough!
 3. This 'delay' is not because you have no faith or that God does not like you. It is the normal experience of one following God...From Noah to us. The delay grows trust and patience! Look at these other passages that speak of God remembering.
 4. Ex 2:23-25 We find God remembered His covenant with Abraham. He heard the groans of the Israelites and remembered His covenant. Israel felt forgotten, but God thought about His covenant with them.
 5. 'God remembered' Rachel—Gen 30:22-24
 6. 'God remembered' Abraham—Gen 19:24-29 and sent Lot out of Sodom and Gomorrah.
 7. 'God remembered' Hannah—1 Sam 1:10-11; 19-20
 8. You may feel at times forgotten by God, but know He is thinking about His covenant And He will act! Charles Spurgeon said, "The furnace of affliction is a good place for you, Christian; it benefits you; it helps you to become more like Christ, and it is fitting you for heaven." Iain Gordon, Storms of Life. Remembering elicits

response. In other words God is responding and we are not forgotten. But God - Remembered!

III. But God Was With (accompanied) Joseph

- A. Many people relate to Joseph's life. We find three 'But God' moments in Joseph's life. When we look at Joseph, it is a wonder that the man did not end up in a place of depressing despair with no end in sight. Alone, rejected by family, accused by wealth and seemingly forsaken and there is not a thing you can do about it. Lets look at them:
- B. #1 But God was with him. *"And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household."* (Acts 7:9-10, ESV) No brainer, hind sight!
1. This is a statement that changes everything, But God was with him. Whatever just happened, know that God was with him. Of course our good friend Dr. Luke who writes Acts is looking back at Joseph's story just as you and I are. And the good news of Joseph's life that we can proclaim with hind sight is that God was with Him. The amazing things of this account is that Joseph did not lose sight of God with him.
 2. If you find yourself in a situation such as Joseph, do not ever forget that God is with you.
- C. #2 I can't, 'But God' can! This was how Joseph saw God! Bigger than any impossibility. *"It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied. "But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease."* (Genesis 41:16, NLT)
1. None of Pharaoh's wise men or magicians could interpret his dream.
 2. Joseph said, he could not interpret the dream but that his God could! Considering all that he has been through, he has not lost faith in God!
 3. Some would say that Joseph's life says, God can't, but Joseph speaking for himself says, "God Can!"
 4. His faith in God was still at work on his insides and it was manifest on the outside.
- D. #3 'But God' Intends good! *"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."* (Genesis 50:20, ESV)
1. Through all his 'unjust' prison time, time to think and ponder, he does not grow bitter. He made no room for a root of bitterness to take hold of him. People's musings often lead them into a place of bitterness because they listen to lies and not to truth.
 - a) He did not blame his brothers

- b) He did not rage at the cup bearer who forgot him.
 - c) *"Then he sent someone to Egypt ahead of them— Joseph, who was sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar. Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the Lord tested Joseph's character."*
(Psalm 105:17-19, NLT) If you will not get bitter your 'but God' time will come.
2. Joseph does not deny, nor has he forgotten what his brothers did to him but he was able to see God's greater purpose, forgive and move into his and their God appointed future. God remembers, God is with us, ...

IV. 'But God', David's Divine Protection

- A. "I should have died there...but God." God is a God of divine protection.
- B. *"And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, **but God did not give him** into his hand."* (1 Samuel 23:14, ESV)
 - 1. Saul hunted David every day but God did not let Saul find him.
 - 2. Saul hired others to look for David. It was all futile!
 - 3. God was forbidding David's capture! No matter how hard Saul tried.
 - 4. Jonathan reminded David of God's prophetic word to him. YOU WILL BE KING!
Sometimes you have to remember the dream as Joseph did or the Word of the Lord as David did.
- C. Saul could not defeat the unseen hand of God.
- D. Ps 18 *"I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me; the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears."* (Psalm 18:1-6, ESV)
vs 18 *"They confronted me in the day of my calamity, **but the Lord** was my support."* (Psalm 18:18, ESV)

V. But God Shows His Love To Us

- A. *"For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **but God shows his love** for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:7-8, ESV)
- B. When we consider Paul's salvation experience...and our own...two words stand out: 'But God!' But God showed us His love when we deserved His wrath.
- C. We were children of wrath *"**But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,**"* (Ephesians 2:4, ESV)

Conclusion:

- 'But there is a God' who remembers, accompanies, protects and saves!
- But God experiences come out of times where God alone is the only answer. Maybe you are in that place today. Did you notice as I shared this morning that all these 'but God' people were in relationship with God?
 - "But God" is for believers. *"But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. Selah"* (Psalm 49:15, ESV)
 - Sometimes 'but God' is for people on whom God is having mercy because He wants no one to perish.
- You can become a believer today: Is 43:25 *I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.*
Heb 8:12 *For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."*
- God makes the impossible possible. *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. **But God raised him up**, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it."* (Acts 2:22-24, ESV)