

Strength For Our Days — 05/31/20

TEXT- Deu 33:25 *Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be.*

INTRO –Most of us are familiar in one form or another with famous last words. You can tell a great deal about a man's character, and of how a man has lived his life and what his life's goals, desires and passions have been, by how he exits this world. 'As thy days, so shall thy strength be', **Deu 33:1** *And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death.* God has promised that if we are His children, He will supply the needed strength for those days...

It is important that we listen to men of God.

You must know what a man of God is.

It is a holy man who lives according to the precepts and principles of God's word, but I have come to this resolution. It is dangerous to listen to anyone who is other than a man of God, as the apostle put it: *children who are tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine.*

we never want to be guilty of setting any man on a pedestal

Moses is a man of God, yet at one point in his life he was a failure.

Moses is a majestic figure in his old age now, erect, strong; the Bible says his energy has not abated, he has 20/20 eyesight at the age of 120.

God said: 'Go up to Mount Nebo and die'.

Before he ascends Mount Nebo and dies, he blesses the people of Israel.

The blessing that we're going to look at today: 'As thy days, so shall thy strength be', is a blessing that was given specifically to Asher. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians that *all the blessings and promises of God are yea and Amen in the Saviour.* Let me give you one example: a distinct promise to Joshua was, 'I will not fail thee nor forsake thee'; yet when we come to the epistle to the Hebrews, the writer there encourages us to take that blessing and own it as ours. He tells us that the Lord will never leave us nor forsake us.

'As thy days, so shall thy strength be', under three headings.

First: what is promised in these words, 'As thy days, so shall thy strength be'?

Secondly: how can we be sure that the promise will be fulfilled? What is the promise? How can we be sure that God will fulfil it?

Thirdly: what difference should this promise make to our lives?

I. What is the promise? He will supply the needed strength for those days. Matthew chapter 6, that we are to take a day at a time. The Lord Jesus said: *'Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof'*, He says: 'I'll be with you, but only live a day at a time'.

They've left the land of Egypt and land of bondage, they've gone through the Red Sea, they're going through the wilderness, they are eventually going to enter into the promised land, and these twelve tribes are going to take up residence in that land - but **they've got to fight for the land first** of all.

Although God has given it to them and promised it to them, it's going to be a hard conflict ahead. Yet God tells them, to just take life a day at a time.

He says: 'I'll be with you, but only live a day at a time'. Notice that the verse **doesn't say 'As thy weeks, so shall thy strength be', it doesn't say 'As thy years, so shall thy strength be',**

Jesus said 'Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof',

'Day-by-day the manna fell,

Oh to learn this lesson well:

Day-by-day the promise reads,

Daily strength for daily needs'.

You see strength for today will not do tomorrow or next year

Jesus that taught us to pray: 'Give us this day our daily bread',

One: God has promised us strength as different as your days are,

Secondly: strength as long as your days shall last.

Your strength will be proportionate to whatever your days have within them. **For days of work, for days of rest, for days of peace, for days of war, for days of pain and sickness and days of health, for days of temptation and days of victory, for days of bereavement or even days when you face your own death, for modern days filled to the brim with technology and even the fear of terrorism; God will give the strength as different as the days are.**

The Bible says that **every day** God gives us His grace, **every day** God gives us His strength, and even though we may unconsciously receive something that we have never asked for,

Do you need mental strength?

Did you need emotional strength?

Did you need physical strength? Moral? Spiritual?

Whatever it may be, just whatever strength is needed and lacking, He gives that strength peculiar in kind to your specific need...

Secondly: strength as long as your days shall last.

'May your strength match the length of your days'.

2 Co 4:16 *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*

Your outward man may perish in old age, but the inward man will be renewed –

Strength as long as your days shall last, strength as different as your days shall be - that's the promise.

II. How can we be sure that the promise will be fulfilled?

A promise is nothing unless it will be honored.

In Uncle Tom's Cabin someone comes along and quotes to this slave: *'Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest'*. The slave turns and says: *'Them's good words'*, and in reply he said, *'but who says them?'*. *'Them's good words, but who says them?'*.

'As your days, so shall your strength be' - you can use positive thinking classes, but it'll not make any difference to your life unless it can be guaranteed, it can be validated.

What is important here is who says these words, and these words are spoken by the Creator Himself!

You cannot drain dry the ocean of God's omnipotence. Whatever your days are, God has promised. The God who knows what our days will be, He knows what's going to happen to you, He is your Father. It is the God, not only who knows, but the sovereign God who orders our days, and the God who orders and tempers our days according to what we can bear.

1 Co 10:13 *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

Spurgeon said: 'If our troubles should become high as mountains, God's grace would become like Noah's Flood, it would go twenty cubits higher till the mountains were covered'.

III. What difference should this promise make to our lives?

Example of the apostle Paul

As Paul went through his Christian life, his weakness became clearer. He felt more weak. **1 Co 15:9** *For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*

Eph 3:8 . . . *who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given,*

1 Timothy 1:15 he says that *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief, I am the chief of sinners.*

It's inferred in our text that we are weak, but as Paul's weakness became clearer as he lived a Christian life, so God's grace became more apparent.

Philippians 4:19: *'My God shall supply all your need'.*

2 Corinthians 12 *'My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly', Paul said, 'therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me'*. The fact that he knew that God would give grace for whatever days came along, and the weaker he felt the greater God's grace would be.

Know that you have this promise that as different as your days shall be, and as long as your days shall be, and as varied as your needs shall be, God's strength shall be...

Oh, how evident that daily grace was also in the life of Job.

'What were his days?' They were days of weeping, days of wailing, days of bereavement, days of horror, days of tragedy. *'the oxen were ploughing, the asses feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them away'*. Then comes another and he says, *'The fire of God hath fallen on the sheep'*. 'Oh', says another, *'the Chaldeans have fallen upon the camels and taken them away, and I, only I am left to tell thee'*. *'A great wind came from the wilderness, and smote the house where thy sons and daughters were feasting, and they are dead, and I, only I am left to tell thee'*.

Where is the proof that grace grew for Job? Well, at the end of all these messages and his awesome experience, he cries: *'The Lord gave, the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord'*.

'As my day, whatever happens, God will give me strength'. Whatever you're fearing, *the arrow that flieth by day, the pestilence that walketh in darkness* - God will give you the strength that your days dictate. What a blessing Asher got! Asher means 'Happy'! Charles Wesley put it in his hymn:

**'Happy the man that finds the grace,
The blessing of God's chosen race,
The wisdom coming from above,
The faith that sweetly works by love'.**

You should be happy to be a Christian today. Know that you have this promise that as different as your days shall be, and as long as your days shall be, and as varied as your needs shall be, God's strength shall be.

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