

God is Present

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Isaiah 43:18-19 and I Chronicles 11.
- B. In the midst of terrible things, God can do a tremendously vital spiritual work.

II. The story of Benaiah. (I Chronicles 11, II Samuel 23)

- A. Benaiah killed a lion, two arials from Moab and an enemy from Egypt.
- B. This was written for our instruction. (I Corinthians 10:13, Romans 4)
- C. We face these enemies today.

- 1. The lion is the devil.
- 2. The enemy from Moab represents our enemy related to us—the flesh.
- 3. The enemy of Egypt represents the world.

D. Benaiah's response.

- 1. He met the enemy under the worst possible conditions.
 - a. This is what we fear most.
 - b. The lion in our life is whatever at just a thought scares us.
 - c. There are lions in every one's life.
- 2. He met him in the worst possible place—the pit.
 - a. In Genesis, there were two messages from God through the meanings of the names: there would be judgment but a remnant would return.
 - c. Jehoiakim means "God knows" and Benaiah means "God builds"—God knows us as a father, and He builds us. God is preparing for you a weight of glory.

Application questions:

- 1. Why are we not to fear facing our enemy in the worst of conditions?

2. What is comforting about the meaning of the names in the aforementioned passage?

3. What is your lion? How should we respond to our lions in light of the message?
