

Daniel 6

Sleeping w/ the Lions

Daniel now an old man in mid-late 80's closer to 90. Darius the Mede subordinate king-vice-roy-king or general for 2 yrs under King Cyrus supreme authority of Persia after overthrow of Belshazzar king in Babylon Ch 5. Daniel now in captivity 70 yrs & placed in high government position as he was in Babylon. Darius in administrative role under Cyrus

1 It seemed good to Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, that they should be in charge of the whole kingdom, 2 and over them three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), that these satraps might be accountable to them, and that the king might not suffer loss.

120 satraps, governors for 120 provinces maintaining law & order & security--representing the king. Authority in civil & military matters. Chosen from Royal families to ensure loyalty. Assigned secretaries, financial officers for taxes, commanders reporting directly to king...eyes & ears of kingdom. Daniel one of the commissioners...godly & ungodly working together, unequally yoked....sparks fly.

3 Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom. 4 Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him. 5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God."

Dan gained reputation from his character....reputation is image projected to the public. Character is what we are behind closed doors & shines brightest in times of adversity. **Horace Greely 19C newspaper editor & reformer & politician**—"Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings & those who cheer today may curse tomorrow, only one thing endures, character".

Integrity is proven by the consistency of a person's words & their deeds

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Enemies try to put Dan in a compromising situation to accuse him & yet character & integrity prevail even in a hostile environment. **A Maclaren..**

When we add Christ to our lives sin must be subtracted...belief & behavior are coupled together--**Preacher on bus...Great wall china bribe gatekeeper**

Dan a target of jealousy & envy...***Jealousy enrages a man and he will not spare in the day of vengeance Pr 6:34 Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood but who can stand before jealousy....seed of murder***

We hear of A listers top of their field **what about D listers...**devious, deceitful, dishonest, double dealing, deceptive, double tongued, divisive...

Blessed is pure in heart for they shall see God...that is Daniel. **Thomas Brooks 17th C preacher, author** ***"Envy tortures the affections, it vexes the mind, it inflames the blood, it corrupts the heart, it wastes the spirit & so it becomes mans tormentor & his executioner all at once"***

No fault but only in his God...too dedicated ***1Pet 2:12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.***

Spurgeon blackmailed w/ slander...."You may write the story on the sky if you like! Tell all you know across heaven.".....A hypocrite is someone who is not themselves on church Sunday

6 Then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows: "King Darius, live forever! 7" "All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions' den. 8" "Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked." 9Therefore King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.

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Daniel is absent so no opposing voice....they flatter the king *'he who flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his feet'* Pr 29:5 Appealing to his pride...**Lion's den** official form of execution as **firry furnace** was w/ Nebu. In M-P **Zoroastrians** worshiped god **Atar god of fire**. Capital punishment by fire as in Babylon would be sacrilegious in M-P, **defiling god of fire** so lions den way of execution. M-P laws irrevocable

10 Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously. 11Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God. 12Then they approached and spoke before the king about the king's injunction, "Did you not sign an injunction that any man who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, is to be cast into the lions' den?" The king answered and said, "The statement is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked." 13Then they answered and spoke before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps making his petition three times a day." 14Then, as soon as the king heard this statement, he was deeply distressed and set his mind on delivering Daniel; and even until sunset he kept exerting himself to rescue him. 15Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

Daniel knew these guys were out to get him & decree given was death sentence. Decisions needed to be made which was no decision at all...he didn't & would never change his routine to pray....every trial we face is a test of character. D Bonhoeffer 'Cost of Discipleship' classic-Nazis hanged April WW2 over May *"When God calls a man he bids him come and die' "If a person hasn't found something to die for they'll never really be living'*

Dan close to 90 but age is no factor in the enemies schemes for compromise. **Matt 22:4 Watch and pray that you not enter into temptation the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak**

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1Kings 8:29 that Thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, toward the place of which Thou hast said, 'My name shall be there,' to listen to the prayer which Thy servant shall pray toward this place. 30"And listen to the supplication of Thy servant and of Thy people Israel, when they pray toward this place; hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling place; hear and forgive.

Custom pray 3x's daily if Dan 85 started at 10 yrs old 80,000 prayers.

Africa 'there's grass on your path'

13 **Exiles** contempt, yet top leader, commissioner...broke kings law by keeping Gods law to pray. Darius trapped, tripped up & troubled by what he'd done. Deeply distressed, death sentence carried out on eve of accusation.

16Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions' den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you." 17And a stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing might be changed in regard to Daniel. 18Then the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him.

Lions den a square hole in earth w/ patrician walls w/ door & door keeper to open & close from above. Throw food to entice lions from one chamber to the other, shut door & clean chamber.

God gives sleep to those He loves Ps 127:2 Darius awake 7 worried while Daniel is asleep in faith trusting the Lord.

19 Then the king arose with the dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions' den. 20And when he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?" 21Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever! 22"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime." 23Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

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Daniel sentenced to death yet alive asking for the [eternal life](#) of a pagan king :21 Consistent in faith & character speaks loud & clear to unbelievers.

Theophany LXX angel God—Dan spent the night in fellowship w/ the Lord
Ps 34:7 ‘Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and rescues them.’ Car in building...**Heb 11:33 By faith shut the mouth of lions.**

24 The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they cast them, their children, and their wives into the lions’ den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. 25 Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations, and men of every language who were living in all the land: “May your peace abound! 26 “I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion will be forever. 27 “He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has also delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.” 28 So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Now is Gods’ law of sowing & reaping **Pr 26: 28 A lying tongue hates those it crushes, And a flattering mouth works ruin.....27 He who digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone, it will come back on him.**

Law M-P guilt of one seals the fate of whole family....so no retaliation
 Torah more merciful **Dt 24:16 “Fathers shall not be put to death for their sons, nor shall sons be put to death for their fathers; everyone shall be put to death for his own sin.**

Was Darius saved? Jewish nation failed as a whole so God uses silent witness of the life of Daniel w/ miracles, supernatural work as witness to pagan king who published & told story of the glories of the true God of Daniel...Faithfulness of one man moved a kingdom.

This ends the historical narrative....ch 7-12 prophetic portion pointing to the end times & second coming of Christ....exciting last days prophetic picture