

IN THE LIONS DEN DANIEL 6

This morning as we look at the Book of Daniel we see a new king on the Throne! There is not only a new king but there is a new kingdom. At the close of chapter 5 the Babylonia king Belshazzar is killed and Darius of the Medes and Persians takes over.

Belshazzar had crossed a line and God said enough and that very night his life was ended. God is longsuffering, but at some point God will say enough! He did and Belshazzar died.

I. THE ACTS PROMOTION OF DANIEL 6:1-3

Daniel 6:1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom;

Daniel 6:2 and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss.

Daniel 6:3 Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.

1. When Darius came in he reorganized the gov't of Babylon.

Guess who he put in charge?

Finally some good news!

Daniel had come to Babylon a prisoner – now he was a Vice president.

2. By the way, Daniel was now close to 90 and still active for God.

I want our senior adults to take notice of this.

- At a time when many would be slowing down – Daniel was given more work.
- When I get old, I want to be like Daniel.
 - **Daniel, the Bible says had an excellent spirit.**

Now if anyone had a reason to complain I would think it was Daniel!

He just bloomed where God planted him.

- He was not a bitter, cross, obstinate, cantankerous old man who was hard to get along with. He let the Lord rule his life.
- Those of you who are growing older – when you retire – don't retire on God. Retirement means you have more time for God!

II. THE PERSECUTION OF DANIEL

Daniel 6:4 & 5 So the governors and satraps sought to find *some* charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.

5 Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him concerning the law of his God.”

1. Not everyone was excited about Daniel's promotion.
2. Do you know why these men were jealous? Because Daniel was where they wanted to be.

3. Daniel became the object of an official government investigation.

Look at verse 4a – **sought to find *some* charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom**

To Daniel's credit, nothing could be found. vs4 **he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.**

What if people tried to find fault in you?

Daniel 6:5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God."

It's one thing for people to not like you because of your Christianity but it is another thing for them to dislike you because of your conduct.

III. THE PLOT AGAINST DANIEL

Daniel 6:7 All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.

What a lie! And Darius fell for it

8 Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." 9 Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

IV. THE BOLDNESS OF DANIEL 6:10-17

A. Daniels actions

This was indeed a test, which king would he obey?

For Daniel this was really no test at all. He had made this decision in his mind years ago!

He believed the laws of God are greater than the laws of man.

What this really all came down too was whether Daniel was going to please a man or please God!

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

Our text tells us that Daniel did not change a thing. He did not pray longer and he did not pray harder. It says he prayed as was his custom since early days!

1. **Daniel had a place to pray.** He prayed privately. He wasn't trying to impress anybody.
2. **Daniel had a position he prayed in.** He prayed kneeling. He was in a position of submission.
3. **Daniel had a period of prayer.** He prayed 3 times a day. He was never too busy for God in spite of the fact that he was one of the governors.
4. **Daniel had a purpose in praying.** He was not praying for deliverance though that would have been okay, he was praying with thanksgiving.

If anyone had a right to be angry with God, it was Daniel yet here we see him giving thanks.

Sometimes we get caught up in what we don't have and forget what we do have.

B. Daniels accusers. Daniel 6:11-12

Daniel 6:11 Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Daniel 6:12 And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."

III. DANIELS PROTECTION

A. The King. Daniel 6:13-14

Daniel 6:13 So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."

Daniel 6:14 And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

The king had put himself in a corner. He had no choice.

Daniel 6:16 Daniel 6:16 So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions.

“I can almost hear the Devil whispering in Daniel’s ear, “Old man, you’ve made your final mistake. I’ve got you now. You’re not much, but you’ll be a nice snack for these lions.”

- Was Daniel afraid? The man who fears God only – need fear no one else. Courage is not the absence of fear it going forward in spite of the fear.

B. The Lord

vs 16 So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.”

As you read the text you will find out that that is just what happened.

The king could not sleep so early the next morning he ran to where Daniels was being kept!

Daniel 6:20 And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”

Daniel 6:21 Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever!

Daniel 6:22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me

The king just knew that Daniel was dead, but he wasn’t!

Daniel 6:23 Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.

I love Daniels statement in verse 22, My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me.

V. Conclusion

Look also at verse 23. , and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.

Daniel 6:24 And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.

Daniel 6:25 Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

Key lessons

1. Though there are those who hate us – there will be those who are glad we are real.
2. Those who hate us will get what they meant for us.
3. Our testimony ought to point people to Jesus.

Daniel 6:25 Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

Daniel 6:26 I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end.

Daniel 6:27 He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

We all have trials – we all enter some type of lion’s den (work-home).

It is not always God’s will to deliver you from the den.
Sometimes we have to face the trial.

John the Baptist.

Stephen

James brother of John

One thing we can count on.....God will be with us.