

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Part 1

Daniel 6

Introduction: As we have been studying the book of Daniel, we have considered how this book is written to teach us how to live in a world that is corrupt. This we shall see as we go through this chapter. Last week we finished Daniel 5 and at the end of the chapter Daniel was crowned the third ruler in the Babylonian Kingdom, but his position was taken away quickly. It was that very night that Belshazzar was killed, and the Medes and the Persians overtook the Babylonians. This was just as God had foretold in chapter 2 of Daniel. The Medes and the Persians were the chest and the arms of silver on the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. As we step into Daniel 6 tonight the Holy Spirit is going to keep Daniel under the microscope so that we may see the example which he sets for us as we pass through this sin-filled world.

➤ **Daniel's Character**

Notice Daniel 6:1

Here we see as the Medes and the Persians came in, they did what any new power would do and that was the established their rule in Babylon. Darius appointed 120 princes to oversee the kingdom under him.

Notice Daniel 6:2

Over the 120 princes were 3 presidents of which Daniel was the first. These princes all reported back to the presidents who in turn reported to Darius.

Notice Daniel 6:3

As this government began to get established it was then that Daniel began to rise to the top and it was noticed by the people whom he served with that there was a different spirit within him.

Application:

This is what happens when God's people live under the control of the Holy Spirit, God is glorified through their lives. Daniel is a wonderful example to all of us that no matter where we are, no matter the circumstances, we are to live for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31-32

³¹ *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

³² *Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:*

Daniel was the third ruler in the kingdom for only a couple hours then it all fell apart. But he stayed true to the Lord and his character shined like the midday sun. He was then given an honorable position in the new kingdom. Joseph was another man who glorified God even in the trials of life.

Genesis 39:1-4

And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

² *And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.*

³ *And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.*

⁴ *And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.*

➤ **The Integrity of Daniel**

Notice Daniel 6:4

The promotion of Daniel made the other presidents and princes jealous. They therefore sought to find fault with Daniel concerning the kingdom.

Application:

Let us learn from this season of Daniel's life that when we live to glorify God, we can be sure that Satan will stir the heart of someone to do all they can to find fault with our testimony or our service. Our enemy is not going to standby while we honor God with our lives. He will use others in an attempt to discourage us or to get us to compromise our stand. Many times, the enemy will use those of our own family in an attempt to stop us. Looking again at Joseph we see how the enemy came against him.

Genesis 39:6-15

⁶ And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

⁷ And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

⁸ But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

⁹ There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

¹⁰ And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.

¹¹ And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.

¹² And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

¹³ And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth,

¹⁴ That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:

¹⁵ And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.

As we live lives to glorify God we should expect attacks from the enemy. We must be spiritually alert so that we can recognize them for what they are.

1 Peter 5:8-10

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

¹⁰ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

When the attacks come let us not grow weary and give up. That is what the enemy wants us to do. Let us see the attacks as encouragement knowing that God is using us and Satan feels threatened.

Ephesians 6:10-13

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Notice Daniel 6:4 again.

We also see in this verse that these men looked in great detail, but they could find not one fault to use against Daniel. This is an amazing declaration. Daniel is in his 80's and they had access to all the records of the Babylonians. They searched the records the entire way back to when Daniel was brought to Babylon and there was nothing to disqualify him from serving.

Application:

Might this be said of everyone of us! Let us live in a way that people have nothing to use against us.

1 Peter 3:15-17

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

¹⁶ Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

¹⁷ For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

Let us also be reminded that it should be expected that we are brought under close examination and that difficulties will come.

1 Peter 4:12

¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

Here is a good question for each of us to consider.

***"If you were arrested for being a Christian,
would there be enough evidence to convict you?"***

Notice Daniel 6:5

This verse tells us a great deal about Daniel. As these men watched him very closely there was one area of his life that was very consistent and that was in Daniel's relationship with his God. They could find no gaps in his commitment to God. Daniel was steadfast in his loyalty.

Application:

It is one thing to have a clean reputation, but it is a higher honor to be so committed to the Lord that the enemy can find no gaps in our loyalty. There was no time when Daniel compromised. There was nothing that distracted Daniel. His eyes were on the Lord, and the distractions were blocked out. Were there any distractions? Yes, there were. This was a city full of distractions and for such a man as Daniel there were many things at his fingertips. I am reminded of what Jesus said about the church before He would return.

Revelation 3:14-20

¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

¹⁸ I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

This describes the church of today. It is caught up in the world and the world's goods and if that were not sad enough, Jesus is standing on the outside knocking. He has been pushed out, and He longs to be on the inside to fellowship with His people.

Daniel's integrity led those who were against to come up with a plan that was sure to trap Daniel.

Notice Daniel 6:6-7

The men decided to make a decree that said no man could pray to any God for 30 days. This is another great compliment to Daniel. These men watched him closely and they knew that he was a man of prayer. They knew he prayed 3 times a day to his God. This was one of the points of consistency to be found in Daniel's life.

Conclusion/Application:

This makes me wonder what would happen to us if there was a decree/law that said we would die in a lion's den if we were caught praying to any God in the next 30 days? How many people would be arrested? I get concerned that not many believers would be arrested because they are too busy in life to spend time in prayer with God or to just sit with Him and listen.

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

⁴⁰ But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

⁴² But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.