

Daniel



Lesson 9-Crisis and Victory in Persia: Daniel in the Lion's Den Focus: Daniel 6:1-28

❖ God placed his faithful servant in a position of prominence (v.1-3)

- God had Daniel put into this position for **“an excellent Spirit was in him”** (v.3). And yet, it was not merely of Daniel himself, but of **the working of God's Spirit** which daily ruled in Daniel's heart.
- **Daniel had daily been learning the lessons of God since his youth** which bring **“...favor with [both] God and man...”** (Luke 2:52); Lessons of faithfulness in even the small things, of cheerfulness, of love, and of humility, of justice and mercy, discipline, and ability to lead. **The principles of God's word and the fruit of His Spirit will create desirable qualities in every soul who receives them** (Galatians 5:22,23; Prov. 15:33). Additionally, God's blessing will be upon those who call upon Him and who obey His voice (Jeremiah 33:3; Hebrews 11:6; Acts 5:32). **The secret of Daniel's success was humbly and obediently walking with God—all who desire such grace may have it if they will seek God.**

❖ Daniel set an impeccable record (v.4)

- Daniel was **an honest and faithful business man and Politician. His righteous life is a REBUKE to every corrupt businessman, politician, or the like.** Daniel's faithful and blessed life brought the jealousies of his colleagues—though Daniel was ever faithful and kind to them (he was a humble and kind-spirited man—an “excellent spirit was in him”).
- **Daniel did not ever steal from the office. His records were done perfectly. Nothing was taken for himself.** His enemies could find NOTHING WRONG when they diligently and carefully searched his record.
- The DEVIL often tempts men to commit “secret sin,” then he exposes them to destroy the person (and even the name of Christ if they are a Christian). **We should remember that God sees everything we do, and that every sin we might commit will shape our character** (this can help us to be faithful).

❖ The enemies of God's faithful servant laid a corrupt plot against him (v.5-9)

- Since Daniel was faithful to God and to the government, their only workable plan was to **make government laws to conflict with the laws of God.** These men knew Daniel would choose to be faithful to God. (They presented a “bill” to the king, and he passed it!).
- The Devil will be doing this in the LAST DAYS as well (Rev. 13 tells us). **The Laws of the State will be brought into conflict with the Laws of God.** (We must choose who we will obey). The PROPHECIES of Daniel tell us **when and what will happen** in the last days, while the STORIES teach us **HOW we can live in the last days** to be victorious.
- If in conflict, **“We ought to obey God rather than man” (Acts 5:29).** This, the faithful saints will surely do (Revelation 14:12).

- ❖ **Daniel remained faithful to God’s words (v.10,11)** *These men expected him to do so, and they watched to see how Daniel would remain faithful at his known habit of prayer. The TEN COMMANDMENTS forbid the worship of anyone but God alone (Exodus 20:3). Daniel **did not change his habit to be secretive now** because it might have given the appearance that he’d listened to their unfair law.—He continued to be faithful. “Praying toward Jerusalem” as the Scripture had told God’s people to do, if they were ever taken as captives (2 Chronicles 6:24-27). The Bible says we should avoid even the “...appearance of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22).*
- ❖ **The enemies of Daniel went to make their complaints against him (v.12-15)**
 - These men first reminded the king of the law he’d made. Then, they reported that Daniel had broken that Law. At that moment, the king realized the foolishness of the law, and also the trap these evil men had laid for Daniel. He was greatly displeased!
- ❖ **Daniel had to be thrown into the lion’s den (v.16-24)**
 - *The king had so much faith in Daniel’s God and he knew God’s power would be the only power to save him (v.16). The den was sealed with the king’s own seal (v.17).*
 - *God faithfully protected and delivered Daniel in this time of trouble. **“The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knows them that trust in Him” (Nahum 1:7). “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).** If it be for His glory, will, and greater purpose, He will surely deliver His trusting and faithful servants!*
 - *Let us not think that the Lion’s weren’t hungry either! They were vicious and starving!! (v.24).*
- ❖ **God’s name was glorified and Daniel prospered through the time of Cyrus the Persian (v.25-28)**
- ❖ **Daniel was a type of Christ: (1)** *He was an impeccably righteous man—nothing wrong could be found with him (Christ did NO sin, 1 John 3:5).* **(2)** *His enemies (who should have been friends) plotted against him—**they were jealous.*** **(3)** *They used the STATE power to accomplish their work.* **(4)** *The king knew he was innocent and tried to release him.* **(5)** *When the men refused to let Daniel be released, they charged the king with the state law and called it un-loyal to act otherwise.* **(6)** *Daniel was buried in a “tomb” and it was “sealed” with the king’s seal.* **(7)** *Daniel came out alive and unharmed, early in the morning, to the glory of God!!*
- ❖ **Daniel seemed to be so brave and Faithful—WHAT was the secret of Daniel’s power? (How can we also learn to be so faithful?) (v.10)**
 - *Daniel’s life of PRAYER AND DEVOTION was the SECRET!! Daniel had a PLACE (his room), A POSITION (kneeling), a scheduled PERIOD (three set times a day), and a PLAN (he always gave thanks before his God). **We should follow Daniel’s example of Prayer and Devotion if we want to be men and women with God’s blessing, Spirit, grace, and power.** The smaller we are in our own eyes, staying before God in mind, heart, and devotion, the bigger God can make of us before others in this life. Jesus said, “...pray to your father who sees in secret; and your father, who sees in secret, will reward you openly” (Matthew 6:6).*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Is it your desire and choice to develop a consistent daily devotional habit like Daniel? _____ (You can start small, but keep your times consistently! Then watch how God blesses!!)