

DANIEL

Chapter SIX

Lesson NUMBER ELEVEN

Review - Lesson Nine/Ten Daniel

Chapter 5

I. BOOZE AND IDOLATRY IN A KING'S COURT (1-4) (539 B.C)

II. PANIC AND HUMILIATION IN A KING'S COURT (5-9)

A. THE HAND WRITING ON THE WALL...

B. THE QUAKING KING...

C. THE HELPLESS ADVISORS...

III. THE ARRIVAL OF GOD'S MAN **(10-16)**

A. THE ADVICE OF THE QUEEN...

**B. DANIEL BEFORE THE
OFFENDER...**

IV. THE INDICTMENT (17-24)

**A. DANIEL REJECTS THE KING'S
REWARD...**

**B. DANIEL RECOUNTS A LESSON
FROM HISTORY...**

C. DANIEL REBUKES THE KING...

**-- Indeed, inspired history was written
for our learning! - Romans 15:4;
1Corinthians 10:11;**

Romans 15:4; “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

1 Corinthians 10:11 “Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.” (ESV)

V. THE SENTENCE AND EXECUTION

a. Herodotus indicates that Babylon fell as a consequence of the diverting of the waters of the Euphrates, allowing the enemy to enter under the city walls.

b. Other sources explain it as the result of treason and subterfuge from within, resulting in the opening of the gates to the conquering armies.

CONCLUSION:

Daniel Chapter Six – Lesson Eleven

Daniel In The Lions' Den (6:1-28)

INTRODUCTION

1. The faith of Daniel has been an inspiration to many young people...

a. Due to his faith as a young man, when only 15-17 years old.

b. In which he “purposed in his heart not to defile himself” – DANIEL 1:8

2. Daniel should also be an inspiration to elderly people...

a. As an example of service and commitment in our "golden years"

b. For we can also read of his faith as old man, perhaps in his mid-eighties or early nineties.

The account of elder Daniel's faith is found in Daniel 6:1-28, involving an incident commonly referred to as "Daniel In The Lion's Den".

The story is certainly worthy of our careful consideration, and so we begin our study by reading verse one...]

Daniel 6:1-9 “It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole

kingdom. Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God. Then these high officials and

satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, “O King Darius, live forever! All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the injunction and

sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.” Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.” (ESV)

I. THE TRAP IS SET (1-9)

A. DANIEL IS SUCCESSFUL...

1. He is appointed one of three governors over the kingdom – Daniel 6:1-2;

a. The kingdom appears to be Babylon (Chaldea), recently conquered by the Medo-Persian empire – Daniel 5:30-31

b. There are three Medo-Persian kings of the name of Darius mentioned in the Old Testament.

One occurs in Ezra 4:5; 6:1, 6:12,15; in Haggai 1:1; 2:10, and in Zechariah 1:7, as the king who, in the second year of his

reign, effected the execution of those decrees of Cyrus which granted the Jews the liberty of rebuilding the temple, the fulfillment of which had been obstructed by the malicious representations which their enemies had made to his successors.

It is commonly agreed that this king was Darius Hystaspis, who succeeded the usurper Smerdis, 521 b.c., and reigned thirty-six years.

2. Daniel "distinguished" himself above the others – Daniel 6:3;

a. His success was due to his "excellent spirit", not cunning or political maneuvering.

b. Proving one can be successful in business and politics without compromising character.

c. Darius contemplates setting Daniel over the whole realm.

B. DANIEL IS ENVIED...

1. His success leads to envy by others –

Daniel 6:4;

2. His noble character is attested to by his enemies – Daniel 6:4;

3. His enemies determine there is only one way to defeat him - Daniel 6:5;

C. DANIEL IS TARGETED...

1. The king is approached by Daniel's enemies – Daniel 6:6;

2. They propose a royal statute, a firm decree – Daniel 6:7;

3. The king is encouraged to establish the decree – Daniel 6:8-9;

[Daniel's faith in God brought him success up to this point. But now the exercise of his faith could cause him to lose it all! What would we have done in his place? As we continue to read, we see what Daniel did...]

II. THE TRAP IS SPRUNG (10-17)

Daniel 6:10-17 “When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the

injunction, “O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” The king answered and said, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O

king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.” Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be

changed.” Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.” **(ESV)**

A. DANIEL CONTINUES TO PRAY...

- 1. Knowing full well that the decree had been signed – Daniel 6:10;**
- 2. Practicing a custom common among the Jews - Daniel 6:10;**
- 3. His own custom since "early days" - Daniel 6:10;**

Psalm 55:17 “Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice.” (ESV)

1 Kings 8:27-30 “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the

prayer that your servant prays before you this day, that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.” **(ESV)**

1 Kings 8:54 “Now as Solomon finished offering all this prayer and plea to the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven.”

Philippians 4:6 “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” **(ESV)**

B. DANIEL IS CAUGHT...

1. His enemies catch HIM praying -

Daniel 6:11;

2. His enemies report HIM to the king -

Daniel 6:12-13;

3. The king is forced to abide by his own decree – Daniel 6:14-15;

C. DANIEL IS THROWN INTO THE LIONS' DEN...

1. Yet the king is hopeful - Daniel 6:16;

2. The den is closed with a stone and sealed - Daniel 6:17;

[It appears Daniel's enemies have won. He is in the lions' den and it is sealed. Yet could any "seal" by man ever keep God from accomplishing His plans (don't

forget the "sealed" tomb! - cf. Matthew 27:62-67)? And so we read how...]

Matthew 27:62-66 “The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his

disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard." (ESV)

III. THE TRAP IS SPOILED (18-28)

Daniel 6:18-28 “Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him. Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you

from the lions?” Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.” Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had

trusted in his God. And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces. Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: “Peace be multiplied to you. I make a

decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.” So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.” (ESV)

A. DARIUS IS WORRIED...

1. His night is restless - Daniel 6:18;

2. His concern for Daniel is evident - Daniel 6:19-20;

B. DANIEL IS DELIVERED...

1. Daniel answers the king - Daniel 6:21-22;

2. Darius removes Daniel from the den - Daniel 6:23;



C. THE CONSPIRATORS ARE EXECUTED...

- 1. Cast into the same trap intended for Daniel, along with their families – Daniel 6:24;**
- 2. As often happens, those who set the trap get caught in it!**

Esther 7:10 “And the king said, “Hang him on that.” So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the wrath of the king abated.” **(ESV)**

Psalm 7:14-16 “Behold, the wicked man conceives evil and is pregnant with mischief and gives birth to lies. He makes a pit, digging it out, and falls into the hole that he has made. His mischief returns upon his own head, and on his own skull his violence descends.” **(ESV)**

Luke 6:31 “And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.” (ESV)

D. GOD IS EXALTED...

1. Darius makes a decree that the God of Daniel be feared – Daniel 6:25-27;

2. Another pagan king comes to realize Who is really in control!

E. DANIEL PROSPERS...

1. In the reign of Darius, who ruled Chaldea – Daniel 6:28;

2. In the reign of Cyrus of Persia (who also ruled over Darius) - cf. Daniel 1:21;

Daniel 1:21 “And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.” (ESV)

CONCLUSION:

Name the noble qualities of this aged saint?

a. With an “excellent spirit”– Daniel 6:3;

**b. Without fault in his business dealings
– Daniel 6:4;**

**c. Faithful to those over him – Daniel
6:4;**

d. Committed to prayer throughout his life – Daniel 6:10;

e. Willing to obey God rather than man – Daniel 6:10;

-- Putting it simply, he was a man who "believed in his God"! – Daniel 6:23;

Daniel 6:23 “Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.”

QUESTIONS And/Or OBSERVATIONS

Prayer Time