



Daniel 6:1-28

8/23/20 AM

DANIEL UNDER DARIUS THE MEDE

Introduction:

I. THE DECREE OF THE KING (vs. 1-9)

A. Daniel's Promotion (vs. 1-3)

"120 satraps...in charge of the whole kingdom and over them three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one)"

"accountable to them and that the king might not suffer loss"

"Daniel began distinguishing himself...because he possessed an extraordinary spirit"

"the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom"

B. Daniel's Predicament (vs. 4-5)

"the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel"

"no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption...he was faithful and no negligence or corruption was to be found"

"unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God"

C. Darius' Proclamation (vs. 6-9)

they "came by agreement to the king...the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction"

"a petition to any god or man besides you...for thirty days...cast into the lions' den"

"establish the injunction...so that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians"

"therefore King Darius signed the document"

II. THE DEVOTION OF DANIEL (vs. 10-17)

A. His Dedication to the Lord (vs. 10)

"when Daniel knew that the document was signed...he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem)"

"he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously"

B. The Deviousness of His Enemies (vs. 11-13)

"these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God"

"they approached and spoke before the king...'Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king...'"

C. The Deception of the King (vs. 14-17)

“as soon as the king heard this statement, he was deeply distressed”

“set his mind on delivering Daniel; and even until sunset he kept exerting himself to rescue him”

“these men came by agreement.... ‘recognize, O king, that it is a law...that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed”

“the king gave orders and Daniel was...cast into the lions’ den”

“Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you.”

“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 would be changed in regard to Daniel”

III. THE DELIVERANCE OF THE LORD (vs. 18-28)

A. A Night of Misery for Darius (vs. 18-20)

“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”

“the king arose at dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions’ den...he cried out with a troubled voice”

“Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?”

B. A Night of Delivery for Daniel (vs. 21-23)

“My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths and they have not harmed me”

“I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime”

“the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den”

“no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God”

C. A Day of Judgment for Daniel’s Enemies (vs. 24-28)

“the king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel...they cast them, their children and their wives into the lions’ den”

“they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones”

“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! I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel....”

“So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.”

Conclusion:

- 1) Be aware of Satan’s work in the disguise of law and order as well as in chaos and evil.
- 2) Live for the Lord always and don’t defend yourself. Let Him take care of you.
- 3) Be known for your integrity - by friend and foe alike.
- 4) Seek to strengthen the faith of others by giving them hope in God’s sovereignty.
- 5) Make it a point to meet with God daily.

Food for Thought:

- 1) If you were prosecuted for your faith, would there be enough evidence to convict you?
- 2) What should be our attitude (and action) regarding laws that go contrary to Scripture? Defend your answer biblically.
- 3) What does this chapter teach us about prayer?
- 4) What constitutes “success” in Scripture? (See also Gen. 24:12; Josh. 1:7-8; Neh. 2:20; and Eccl. 10:10.)