

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 5/1-2/2023 Daniel 6:1-28

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL NOW BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!
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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).
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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - Audio & notes from previous studies

OPENING PRAYER

Daniel - The Sovereignty of God – He Rules Over All; He Overrides All!

Chapter 6 The Plot Against Daniel – vs. 1-9; Daniel in the Lions' Den – vs. 10-17; Daniel Saved From the Lions – vs. 18-23; Darius Honors God – vs. 24-28!

- **If you have any concerns about critics' objections to the Book of Daniel**, two books are suggested, which provide much detail in showing the events from a historic standpoint, that the Book of Daniel is all true. *Jerome's Commentary on Daniel*, by Jerome; Gleason L. Archer; and *Studies in the Book of Daniel*, by Robert Dick Wilson.

- **As for me, Jesus' reference to Daniel, is more than enough!** (*Mat 24:15*) "*Therefore when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place*" (whoever reads, let him understand), (*Mar 13:14*) "*So when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not*" (let the reader understand), "*then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*"
- **Chapter 6 is a transition. The Babylonian Empire has fallen.** The chest of silver has now taken over. The Medo-Persian Empire is now reigning. The Babylonian Empire fell around 539 B.C., thus the timing for the story is probably somewhere around 537 B.C. It is said that Darius is perhaps a title rather than a name. It has been suggested that it is like the title of Prime Minister or the title of Rabshakeh (in *2 Kings and Isaiah*), that it is not actually the name of the individual, but the title that he had.
- **It may be that Darius was an official known as Gubaru,** whom Cyrus appointed as ruler over Babylon immediately after its capture. It is the opinion of some commentators that this *Gubaru* was the same person as **Darius**, which may be an honorific title meaning, "holder of the scepter."
- **This chapter is a profound illustration of how God cares for His people.** Although historical and to be accepted in its literal portrayal of an event, it is also like chapter 3, a foreshadowing of the ultimate deliverance of the people of Israel from their persecutors in the time of the Great Tribulation at the end of the times of the Gentiles, when the power of God is finally demonstrated at the second coming of Christ, the persecutors of Israel and the enemies of God will be judged and destroyed much like the enemies of Daniel. Like Daniel, however, the people of God in persecution must remain true, regardless of the cost!

Dan 5:31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

Chapter 6 - Daniel and the Lions' Den

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

- **The Medo-Persian Empire has now taken over world domination,** conquering the empire of Babylon. There are one hundred and twenty provinces.

Dan 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.

- **The government is thus allotted the one hundred and twenty satraps or princes** over the whole kingdom, and then the three presidents, Daniel being one of the three. He was preferred above the governors and princes because an excellent spirit was in him.
- **In the previous chapter we read that there was in him, "the Spirit of the Holy God."** When you have the Holy Spirit in you, you have an excellent spirit, (*Gal 5:22-23*) *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.* That is an excellent spirit! When you meet a person like that, you have met someone with an excellent spirit! He has the Holy Spirit residing in him. How we need the Holy Spirit, not just to reside in us, but actually to be in control of our lives, a spirit governed life, a spirit-controlled life! Such was the case with Daniel, the spirit of God dwelling in him.

Dan 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.

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

- **It was his intention to make Daniel second in command.** Now at the end of the last chapter, when he had interpreted for Belshazzar the writing on the wall, Belshazzar made him third in the kingdom. Now, Daniel, because of his excellent Spirit, always exhibiting a good attitude in his work and life, is being thought of to be promoted to the position of Prime Minister in the Persian Empire! However, this provoked the other

presidents and the princes to jealousy. They sought to find occasion against Daniel of a misuse of his power, of some type or form of corruption. They were studying and scrutinizing him trying to find a flaw or something which they could accuse him of, to the king, but they could find no occasion or no fault!
Amazing! How difficult would it be to find fault in my life?

- **Consider how outstanding that is! It indeed says a lot for Daniel.** Being in the public eye is not an easy place to be. Your life is open and usually there are people that can find fault with something that you have said, or something that you have done, or in some way that you have responded. If you followed me around for a few hours, you would easily find fault in the way I drive and in the way I respond to the way other people drive! Daniel was a man of excellent spirit. They could not find any fault, because he was faithful. *(1Co 4:2) Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.* The most important characteristic that we could have, is just to be what God has called us to be, faithful to the calling of God.
How faithful am I to my calling?

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

- **Daniel is totally committed to the Lord, and the Lord is first.** His enemies decide to devise a law that would cause Daniel to violate his conscience before God, knowing that his conscience before God would prevail over a law of man. This is the one thing that Daniel will certainly not compromise! Can this be said about me? How about you?
- **We, as Christians are told in the scriptures that we are to obey** the laws of the land, to be in obedience to those that are in authority over us. But, if laws are created that violate my conscience before God, if in obeying that law I would be violating my conscience, then as Peter said, *(Act 4:19-20) But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. [20] For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."* We must obey God, rather than man. In other words, we have no intention of keeping your law.
- **When the three Hebrew children were commanded by the king to bow down and worship** the golden image, they defied him, making him angry. They said, "The God that we serve is able to deliver us out of your hand and even if He doesn't, we are not going to bow down to your image." They were not going to violate their conscience before God. So, it was also with Daniel. They knew that his obedience and commitment to God was the primary love and thrust of his life! The only way that they were going to get at Daniel was to devise a law that would violate his conscience before God, knowing that he would obey God!

Dan 6:6 So these governors and satraps thronged* (gathered tumultuously) *before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever!"

Dan 6:7 All* (no, not Daniel!) *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.

Dan 6:8 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."

- **First of all, it was the idea to flatter you, Darius the king!** To let the people realize how important you are. To let the people give the honor that is due to you. It is really a very ridiculous kind of a law that no one could pray or offer any request of any god or man with the exception of the king for thirty days with the threat of being cast into the den of lions. They were pressuring him.
- **Beware of Flattery! (Psa 78:36) Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, And they lied to Him with their tongue.** Here the two governors and the 120 satraps flatter the new King Darius. Notice how he responds!
- **So the pressure is to come on and sign it, O king! Be careful** of that kind of pressure! The kind that says, "Well, this is the last opportunity. The sale is going off. You better sign today." This pressure of being pushed is where one can make mistakes. This is where trusting in the Lord is so important! If the Lord wants me to have it, it will be here when I get back, and if it isn't here, then the Lord does not want me to

have it! Those “you’ve got to do it now” situations, can be costly. Here, they are pressuring him to quickly sign the decree.

- **Now, Nebuchadnezzar was a sovereign ruler.** Those who he would, he slew. Those who he would, he kept alive. He could do what he wanted. He was not bound by the law. He was the law. His word was law, and he could change it. He could alter it. But now you find that the king is really governed by the laws. He no longer is a sovereign type of a ruler, but he himself is subject to the laws of the Medes and the Persians. Thus, the gold head is replaced by an inferior kingdom, the chest of silver.

Dan 6:9 Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

- **Under the pressure**, under the lies, under the deceit, under the flattery, he signed the decree.

Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home (making no changes at all!) **And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees** (symbolizing a position of his heart. Jesus did the same at Gethsemane - (Luke 22:41), as Stephen-at his martyring (Acts 7:60), as Peter -Dorcas from dead (Acts 9:40), as Paul and other leaders in the church at Miletus (Acts 20:36), and as Luke at Tyre (Acts 21:5) **three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks** (think about giving thanks at a time like this!) **before his God, as was his custom since early days.**

- **He didn’t stop his habit of daily prayer, but faithfully continued** his excellent prayer life! What a tremendous person this Daniel is! At the core of his being, he had a love for God and a personal relationship with Him! He is one of those that I am looking forward to meeting in heaven. I admire this man, and his Godly character, his commitment to the Lord. I can understand why the angel said to him, “for you are greatly beloved.” He was just a excellent man, a man of prayer and a man of the Word!
- **We find that Daniel speaks about the scriptures.** When he was reading the prophecies of Jeremiah, he realized by the prophecies of Jeremiah that the time of captivity would be seventy years. He was a man of the Word, and he was a man of prayer. God always uses men of the Word and men of prayer. If you want your life to count for God, if you want God to use your life, just become a man of prayer and a man of the Word, and you will find that God will use you!
- **His windows were opened towards Jerusalem.** In *I Kings 8*, Solomon prayed to God at the time of the dedication of the temple. Thousands of the Israelites are gathered there. (*IKi 8:46-49*) *“When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near. Solomon’s prayer is foreseeing the very situation that Daniel is in. This is exactly what he is praying for! [47] yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of those who took them captive, saying, ‘We have sinned and done wrong, we have committed wickedness. [48] and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name. In other words, if they are turning toward Jerusalem, [49] then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.*
- **Here is Daniel, facing Jerusalem three times a day, praying before the Lord.** In (*Dan 9:3*) *Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. [4] And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, “O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, [5] we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. [6] Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets.* A beautiful prayer, which, no doubt, is just a sampling of the prayer that he is offering to the Lord, three times a day, towards Jerusalem with open windows! He knows the decree has been signed. He knows that this can get him in the lion’s den. I don’t think that he really cares. I don’t think it really bothers him. I think he is probably around eighty-eight years old at this time, and he is thinking so feed the lions. What difference does it make? He will be with the Lord.
- **It is amazing. I think the older you get, the less you fear death.** It is a great feeling to look back and see that God has blessed and God has been good. You have tasted the fullness of life in Christ here. Thus, you

are ready for the next chapter. What has God got in store now? So, with Daniel, he was not really frightened by this decree. But three times a day he prayed, giving thanks before his God, as he did before!

- **Too often, we misunderstand prayer, thinking of it only as petition.** We think of prayer as only asking God for something. We notice in the prayers of the Bible, they are usually more involved in the acknowledging of God, His greatness, His power, His glory, then they are in petition. When Jesus gave us the model, saying this is the way you should pray. (*Mat 6:9-13*) *In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. [10] Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. [11] Give us this day our daily bread. [12] And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. [13] And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.* So interspersed with the petition is that praise and worship and the acknowledgment of God.
- **When the disciples were threatened not to speak anymore in the name of Jesus,** and when they came back to the company of disciples, telling them the things that had transpired and the threats that had been made, they prayed. But notice their prayer, (*Act 4:24-30*) *So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, [25] who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'WHY DID THE NATIONS RAGE, AND THE PEOPLE PLOT VAIN THINGS? [26] THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST. [27] "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together [28] to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Then they finally get to the petition, [29] Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, [30] by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."* But they go way down telling the Lord that He is great and has created everything.
- **More time should be spent on praising the Lord and thanking the Lord, rather than in just petitioning.** When you begin to praise the Lord, thanking the Lord, you are brought into an intimacy of fellowship and relationship that you can never know just by petitions. If your prayer only involves petitions you never draw into the holy of holies, so to speak, of just worship. Next time when you get down to pray, spend some time telling the Lord how much you love Him and how wonderful you think He is! If we would spend more time praising the Lord and giving thanks, we would have less petitions to offer. How centered are my prayers on myself and petitions? How thankful am I?

Dan 6:11 Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying (deep in prayer) and making supplication before his God.

Dan 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."

- **It has been signed. It has been set into law.** It cannot be altered or changed!

Dan 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."

Dan 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.

- *And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, not with Daniel, but with himself for being taken! The whole thing just opened up and he saw that they set a trap and he fell in it. It upset him!*
- **The king set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.** He searched for a loophole in the law looking for some way whereby he might not have to put Daniel in the lion's den. He labored till the going down of the sun, as long as he could, to deliver him.

Dan 6:15 *Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed."*

- **Now they are pushing it. They are pressing it. They are forcing the king** to enforce the law. These men have murder in their hearts. Jealousy so often leads to murder. They were jealous of Daniel and his position that he was being considered for, and being mastered by jealousy, they conspired to murder. Notice how sin progresses. First displeasure, then jealously, then plotting and planning on murder! How important it is to quickly turn and repent from any conviction as the Holy Spirit convicts us!

Dan 6:16 *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."*

- **Where did Darius get that kind of confidence in Daniel's God?** He probably had heard the story of the three Hebrew children., how that God had delivered them from the burning fiery furnace! When he became king, it could be being close to Daniel, it could very well be that Daniel witnessed to him about their history of their nation what God had done throughout the history. I cannot believe that Daniel could be this close to the man without really witnessing to the man about the true and the living God whom he served. Having witnessed to the king, now God is sort of on the line.
- **I love the story in Ezra when Cyrus gave them the decree to go back and rebuild** the temple in Jerusalem and they gave them many of the gold and silver vessels . They were bringing back tremendously valuable artifacts back to Jerusalem, priceless artifacts.
- **Ezra was sort of embarrassed to ask for a military guard** to go with them, which would have been the wise thing to do, because there were bandits all the way along the route that would rip off the caravans and roe the treasures. *(Ezr 8:22) For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, "The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him."*
- **You start bragging about God and sometimes you are put on the line.** If your God is so great, He will take care of you. So, the king is encouraging Daniel, having heard of Daniel's God, that your God who you serve continually, He will deliver you!
- **When confronted with the right thing to do even in view of dire consequences, do you really believe that** "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you?"

Dan 6:17 *Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.*

Dan 6:18 *Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him.*

- **This was one of those things that you get on your mind,** how could I have been so foolish, an innocent man is suffering tonight because of my being taken in by flattery? The king was just miserable! His thoughts were just not giving him any rest.

Dan 6:19 *Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions.*

Dan 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, servant of the living God.** This is very interesting, the acknowledgment that Daniel served a *living God*. Most people serve insensate gods! Gods that cannot breathe or see or hear or talk. Still today, the majority of people are worshipping insensate gods. Their lives are being ruled, dominated, mastered by their passion for money, or their passion for excitement or thrills, or their passion for knowledge and understanding, which become their god. They devote their lives to the amassing of material wealth. They

make every decision based upon the profit aspect. That is their god, but it is not alive. It is dead, an inanimate object. *Daniel served the living God!*

- ***Daniel, servant of the living God!*** The night before, the king was saying your God is going to deliver you. He made it very positive. Now the question, do you believe He is able to deliver you from the lions? (Eph 3:20) Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, (Heb 7:25) Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (Jud 1:24) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

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

- **Remember the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace?** How when Nebuchadnezzar looked in, he said, "Did we not cast three, how is it that I see four walking around in the midst of the fire, and the fourth, his face is like the Son of God." Oh, how the Lord shares in our times of trial! He said, "I will not leave you, nor forsake you." You do not go through a period of testing or a trial, but that the Lord is there with you, in it to see you through it!

Dan 6:22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."

- **Daniel was totally unhurt!** I imagine that Daniel slept better than the king! I would suppose that a lion would make a pretty soft pillow.

Dan 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.

- (Mar 9:23) *Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."* Satan is out to destroy your faith in God. He does what he can to challenge your belief. It would be well to again read the eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews, reminding ourselves of what God has done for those people who dared to trust in Him, or dared to believe His promises. Hebrew 11 is telling us about these men. It says, "Who through faith stopped the mouths of lions," no doubt referring to this very chapter and to Daniel's experience.
- (Mat 17:20) *So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. "Have faith in God!"* How far short we fall today. There was no harm to Daniel, nor hurt to Daniel, because he believed in His God. There was no harm to the Hebrew children, in the fiery furnace, because they believed in their God.

Dan 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.

- **This dispels any thought that the lions were not hungry.** We may say, "O my, but why would they throw in the wives and the children?" It is because this is a pagan empire. It was the practice of the Persian Empire that when a man was guilty of treason or whatever, they would not only kill him but the family. Now, God's law said (Eze 18:20) *The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.* Under the law of God this would not be, but under the law of the Persians that is the way it was. This is not God's law. It is not what God required. It is just the laws of the Persians that this happened. Example of Korah's rebellion, (Num 26:10-11) *and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up together with Korah when that company died, when the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men; and they became a sign. [11] Nevertheless the children of Korah did not die.*

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

- **Notice how God is getting his witness out!** You know God has never left Himself without a witness. Now the nation of Israel was to be God's witness to the world through the blessings of God upon that nation! The world was to see the benefits of worshipping God and serving the true and the living God. That is God's witness. But they no longer served God. They began to serve the gods of the heathen, of the Canaanites, even the Babylonian gods. Thus, they were driven from the land, no longer witnesses.
- **But God is not without a witness! Nebuchadnezzar, this great king** of Babylon, bears witness to the world about God. In chapter 4, we read, (*Dan 4:1*) *Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.* It is the same as the way *King Darius* begins his proclamation. God is now using these kings, Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian king, and now Darius, the king of the Medes!

Dan 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 (The point is that in a rapidly changing situation—that is, the Medo-Persians overcoming the Babylonians—God does not change.); **His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end.**

- **That is quite a decree. You better fear and tremble before Daniel's God!** The problem is righteousness cannot be legislated. There those today because we object to the filth that they are seeking to dump on us, saying, "O, those right-wing Christian fundamentalist. They are trying to force us to live according to their convictions." No, you cannot legislate righteousness. You cannot create laws and force people to be righteous. God did not intend that people be forced to be righteous now.
- **This is a testing time. God has given a person a free will.** God does not want a legal relationship with you! He wants a loving relationship with you. He has given you that free will, wanting you to exercise that free will by choosing to live a righteous, pure life, choosing to deny your flesh, choosing to take up your cross to follow Him. I don't have to legally love God, or to serve God. I could live after the flesh, pursuing the things of the flesh. I could live for pleasure or whatever. I have that choice, but I choose to serve God. I choose to deny myself, to take up the cross and follow Jesus!
- **Thus, my relationship with Him is a loving relationship.** I am held by the bonds of love, not by the laws, which is exactly the way God wants it! It is not a legal relationship, but it is a loving relationship. I don't want laws that would force others to live righteously, but I don't want laws either that force me to take their filth, for that is not freedom either.
- **"I make a decree!"** What a witness! Go for it, Darius, I love it. Bear witness to the whole world of the greatness of the God of Daniel!
- **Are you and I not also called to be His witnesses?** (*Mat 5:13a, 14a,16*) "*You are the salt of the earth!* [14a] *You are the light of the world!* [16] *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Dan 6:27 He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel (through the situation, but what protection) from **the power of the lions.**

- **Do we want God to deliver us FROM the situation or THROUGH the situation?** You know we are so anxious for God to deliver us from the situation, rather than through the situation. However, God gets much more glory by delivering us through the situation, then had He delivered us from it! When He delivers us from it, often people say, "It probably would not have happened anyhow." But, when it does happen and God is there and He delivers you, it is a much greater testimony through the situation the Lord has brought me!

Dan 6:28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

- **Darius was sixty-two when they captured Babylon.** He only reigned for two years, and he died. Then, Cyrus became the king. Daniel also was thought highly of and prospered in reign of Cyrus the Persian.
- **This brings us to the end of the historic part of the book of Daniel.** We have followed the history of Daniel from his teenage years in Chapter 1, where he was taken captive to Babylon. We saw some of the

major events that took place to Daniel and to his companions while they were captives in Babylon. We saw the fall of Babylon and the rise of the Medo-Persian Empire. Now through Cyrus, it brings us to the end of Daniel's life from a historic standpoint.

- **Beginning in Chapter 7 and through the rest of the book**, we have visions, which are prophetic that God gave to Daniel concerning the future of the world. Beginning with (*Dan 7:1*) *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.* Chapter 7 actually took place back in the area between Chapters 3 and 4. Daniel will date for you these various prophecies, the time that they came to him, as we get into the rest of the book, which becomes fascinating because now Daniel begins to prophesy of the future events that are going to take place upon the earth during the time of the Gentiles.
- **It is absolutely phenomenal the things that Daniel writes about!** They give proof that this book the Bible was inspired by God. Jesus said, (*Joh 14:29*) *"And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.* When we see the tremendous accuracy with which Daniel spoke of the future events, we will look at history and see where these things took place just exactly as Daniel prophesied, realizing that surely God is the author of this book!

SUMMARY:

- **They could find no charge or fault in Daniel because he was faithful!** The most important characteristic in my life is to be faithful to what God has called me to be! How faithful am I to my calling? They could not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God. Daniel would not compromise his commitment to the LORD at all! Can this be said about me? How about you?
- **Pray with thanksgiving! Daniel, even knowing** that he would be cast into the lions' den, **did not stop** his practice of daily prayer with thanksgiving, but faithfully continued his excellent prayer life! Would I do that? How centered are my prayers on myself and petitions? How thankful am I?
- **God always uses men of the Word and men of prayer.** If you want your life to count for God, if you want God to use your life, become a man of prayer and a man of the Word, and you will find that God will use you.
- **Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.** (*Mar 9:23*) *Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."* Have faith in God!" There was no harm or hurt to Daniel, because he believed in His God. There was no harm to the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace, because they believed in their God.
- **Darius makes a decree!** What a witness! Bearing witness to the whole world of the greatness of the God of Daniel! Think how God's glory was spread through the fiery furnace and lion's den miracles! May we be people of prayer and of the Word and be the witnesses He is wanting each of us to be!
- **He delivers and rescues, Do we want God to deliver us from the situation or through the situation?** We often are so anxious for God to deliver us from the situation, rather than through the situation. Consider the glory of God in the deliverance through the Hebrews from the fiery furnace and Daniel being delivered from the lions' mouths and not from each widely known situations! He would not have been so glorified if both had been delivered out of their adversity!
- **How willing are we in doing what is right**, in order for God to be glorified, even though the consequences are a fiery furnace or a lions' den! God always knows best! Be assured that whenever you take a right stand, which honors the Lord and His word, He will always be with you! You will always be blessed by Him for so doing!
- **God is faithful! God is able! Do you really believe our God is able?** Darius asks *Daniel, servant of the living God! Has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?* The night before, the king said that your God is going to deliver you. Now the question, do you believe He is able to deliver you from the lions? (*Eph 3:20*) *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, (Heb 7:25) Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (Jud 1:24) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,*
- **HE IS ABLE!**

CLOSING SONG:

Dan 6:20b Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

HE IS ABLE – Ferguson, Noland; Sung - Maranatha Singers - (3:12/3:16)

*He is able, more than able to accomplish what concerns me today. He is able more than able
To handle anything that comes my way. He is able more than able to do much more
than I could ever dream. He is able more than able to make me what He wants me to be. (2X)*

*He is able, more than able to do much more than I could ever dream. He is able more than able to make me
what He wants me to be*

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and meditate on *Daniel Chapter 7!*