

Guest Speaker: Assistant Pastor Scott
“Daniel in the Lion’s Den”
Daniel 6:1-28
Wednesday, October 23, 2024

2 Timothy 3:12: “Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

Daniel being thrown into the lions’ den is a historical account. It foreshadows victory over death and hell through faith in Jesus Christ.

Outline of Daniel:

I. Ch. 1: 1-21 Daniel, the Prisoner

II. Ch. 2:1–7:28 God’s Prophetic Plan for the Gentiles

III. Ch. 8:1-12:13 God’s Prophetic Plan for Israel

I. Ch. 1: 1-21 Daniel, the Prisoner:

Daniel’s personal history: He is taken captive to Babylon. He made up his mind not to defile himself. Daniel’s heart belonged to the Lord.

II. Ch. 2:1–7:28: God’s Prophetic Plan for the Gentiles

“Times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24). Gentile rule over Israel began in 605 B.C. with Jerusalem’s captivity by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

Daniel 2: King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream: Terrifying metallic man (**Daniel 2:32-35**). Head of gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, feet of iron and clay. Stone cut without hand destroys the statue. Stone becomes a great mountain.

Dream interpretation: The metallic image of four different metals represents future Gentile Kingdoms that will rule over Israel. Stone cut without hands is the Messianic Kingdom that will overthrow the Gentile Kingdoms and fill the earth.

Daniel 3: Nebuchadnezzar’s Golden Image:

Daniel’s three friends refuse to bow down and are thrown into the fiery furnace. An illustration of God’s power to save in tribulation.

Daniel 4: God warns Nebuchadnezzar in Dream:

Repent of pride and acknowledge God. King is given the mind of a beast.

Chapter 5: Handwriting on the Wall: Fall of Babylon.

Cyrus the Great diverted the Euphrates River gaining entrance to Babylon.

Daniel 6: King Darius’ Foolish Decree (6:1-28).

Daniel is in his eighties. He has served in Babylon’s court through various administrations rife with political corruption, yet walked in integrity.

Thought of Chapter: “Fearing legal prosecution, the wicked will conspire against the righteous; but those trusting in God are delivered from death.”

Isaiah 54:17.

Chapter Outline:

1. **VV. 1-3: The Prominence of Daniel**
2. **VV. 4-9: The Plot against Daniel**
3. **VV. 10-11: The Prayer of Daniel**
4. **VV. 12-18: The Prosecution of Daniel**
5. **VV. 19-24: The Deliverance of Daniel**
6. **VV. 25-28: The Pronouncement of the King**

The previous leadership left Babylon a hot mess of political corruption. When Darius restructured the government, it exposed systemic corruption.

The wicked will conspire together to bring down any righteous man who would expose their crimes.

1. VV. 1-3: The Prominence of Daniel

Vs. 1-2: Darius desired to end corruption by instituting checks and balances. He divided the kingdom into districts overseen by “protectors of the realm.” Next, he appointed three commissioners as auditors (Daniel was one).

Righteous Daniel took his charge to protect the king’s interests seriously. He started to clean up the books and to clean the house.

King Darius saw a spiritual excellence that set Daniel above all his peers. He observed the fruit of God’s Spirit in a yielded man of faith.

Vs. 3: Darius took steps to establish Daniel over his entire realm. His appointment would bring integrity to the whole corrupt administration.

The work of God’s Spirit in Daniel’s life granted him favor before the king, but it also created conflict with the corrupt commissioners and satraps.

2. VV. 4-9: The Plot against Daniel

Vs. 4: The corrupt officials, as one, turned on this righteous man. They feared exposure and prosecution.

They launched an investigation of Daniel, looking for allegations of corruption or incompetence. They used their office to spy on Daniel **(Luke 20:20)**.

No “corruption” in Daniel’s official capacity or personally. His righteous rule over them would bring their downfall. “Mudslinging” will not work against him.

Vs. 5: Their plot is to pit Daniel’s loyalty to the king against his faithfulness to God.

Vs. 6-9: Came by agreement: “a crowd or a mob.” They requested the king to issue a new decree backed by the law's full force (lawfare).

“Anyone who prays to any god or man besides the king shall be cast into the lions’ den.”

Prayers to all gods were to be offered to King Darius. This decree would act as a loyalty test to his new government. He signed the injunction (**Psalm 118:9**). This decree was irrevocable (**Esther 3**).

3. VV. 10-11: The Prayer of Daniel

Vs. 10: Daniel knew that the document was signed.

Proverbs 29:25: Daniel feared only God—his enemies counted on that. He continued his prayer routine.

1 Kings 8:44-45: Daniel engaged in a spiritual battle upon his knees.

Believers obey the government (**Romans 13**).

When the law of the land and the law of God come into direct conflict, **“We must obey God rather than men!” (Acts 5:29).**

Vs. 11: As a mob, they found Daniel making petitions and supplications. These witnesses formed the legal accusation against Daniel (**Psalm 37:32**).

4. VV. 12-18: The Prosecution of Daniel

Vs. 12: This large group sought the king’s audience. The king was bound by law never to revoke an injunction.

Vs. 13: These conspirators brought a two-fold attack: First, Daniel is “one of the children of Judah.” This antisemitic remark implies disloyalty. Second, Daniel disrespected the king (“pays no attention”).

Vs. 14: Darius became angered. The purpose behind this law was not to honor him but to eliminate a political rival. The king determined to deliver Daniel.

Vs. 15: The mob of conspirators assembled at the appointed time for executions. **“Recognize, O king...”** They called for Daniel’s immediate execution.

Vs. 16-18: The king gave orders, and Daniel was cast into the lions’ den. Ancient lion’s dens are underground pits. Above is an opening surrounded by a short wall. These animals were fed little—always ready for an execution.

The king’s inability—“only God can save you.”
In grief, the king fasted and abstained from all distractions.

5. VV. 19-24: The Deliverance of Daniel

Vs. 19-20: “The king arose at dawn... went in haste.” Since execution day has passed, Darius may legally break the seals and remove the stone.

King Darius calls Israel’s God “the living God!” “Constantly serve”—continual worship and service to God (consistent lived-out faith).

Vs. 21-23: “My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths...”

Innocence: “righteous or just according to a standard.”

Daniel was justified in the sight of God and delivered from the pit of death.

Preincarnate Christ: **Psalm 34:7, 2 Timothy 4:1**

God does not always grant deliverance from earthly trials, but He grants the ultimate deliverance of our souls from the pit of death (**Acts 12**).

Job 1:21: Blessing God amid a trial is the true mark of a disciple of Christ.

Daniel’s miraculous deliverance was a legal test.

Daniel has been declared innocent of the crime by God Himself.

Vs. 23: Darius was “overjoyed” and “delighted,” commanding Daniel lifted out of the den. They found no wound on him, for he trusted his God.

We believe God and His word—no matter what we are confronted with in life. Our eyes are on Him and His will for our lives—not on ourselves or our circumstances.

Vs. 24: “maliciously accused” means “eaten the pieces of Daniel.” The king ironically orders the ring leaders to be eaten!

6. VV. 25-28: The Pronouncement of the King

Vs. 25-27: “Darius... wrote to all the peoples...”

Deliverance from death by faith in Christ is a testimony that all should make before the world. He delivers from the devil’s power (**1 Peter 5:8-9**).

Vs. 28: Daniel was elevated to the second highest position in the land. Today, he is honored as one of the greatest men of faith.

Summary:

When the corrupt rule, they conspire against any who would expose or stop their crimes. But God calls the faithful to stand up for righteousness trusting in His ultimate deliverance.

Application:

1. A faith never tested cannot be trusted.
2. The testing of our faith produces endurance in tribulation.
3. Bless God during a trial as a true disciple of Christ.
4. God promises the ultimate salvation of our souls.