

1. Last week I finished teaching the Doctrine of Jealousy and then I taught Daniel 6:6-9. When time ran out I was in the process of giving you several principles relating to Dan 6:10.
2. Before continuing with our study of verse ten I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 6:1-9.

Dan 6:1 Darius, at the urging of Cyrus, decided to divide the Kingdom into 120 provinces with a troika of Regional Managers.

Dan 6:2 Daniel was a member of the triumvirate. The purpose of the Regional Managers was to make sure the King was not cheated out of that which he considered to be his just "due" i.e. taxes and/or tribute.

Dan 6:3 Daniel so distinguished himself as a loyal and effective administrator that Darius let it be known he planned on promoting his Jewish friend to Vice President of the entire Empire, second only to the King himself.

Dan 6:4 Then the other high ranking appointees, motivated by jealousy sought to destroy Daniel by either finding or conjuring some error in him; they carefully critiqued with a fine tooth comb all of his decisions and associations but could find nothing deserving of criticism. As a loyal man of doctrine he was impeccable consistently displaying expertise far and away ahead of his contemporaries; in fact the reports returning to his peers revealed we can find no fault in him whatsoever.

Dan 6:5 Having carefully scrutinized all of Daniel's activities and decisions, one of the conspirators said, "We have been unable to find anything against this Daniel; there is only one hope and that is to use his religion against him.

Dan 6:6 Then these Regional Managers and governors of the respective provinces came together in an official convocation before the king and they greeted him with the words, "King Darius, live forever."

Dan 6:7 Lying, they said, "All the officers of the kingdom as well as the administrative and military leaders, have consulted together to establish a royal law and make a decree that anyone who shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions as punishment.

Dan 6:8 Now, O King, establish the decree and sign the writing so that it cannot be changed; according to the royal law of the Medes and Persians, your decree O King cannot be altered by anyone.

Dan 6:9 Accordingly King Darius, consumed by approbation lust, signed and recorded the royal law.

3. Now we will resume our study of Dan 6:10. I want to review some of that learned and then pick up with new principles at point 22.3:

KJV

Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

NIV

Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

Principles:

1. Daniel was neither involved in the writing of the decree nor was he present at court when it was presented to the king.
2. Had he been in attendance, he would certainly have lodged a protest.
3. Once Daniel was advised of this new royal law, he immediately understood its implications: the decree was directly aimed for his destruction.
4. By acting as an accessory to this act, Darius had elevated himself to the lofty environs of a pagan deity.
5. Daniel could have extricated himself from his predicament. He could have rationalized: "It might be wise for me to pray secretly these next thirty days. Note, he could have, but he did not! Daniel was neither frightened nor worried; he knew that the battle was the Lord's.
6. God had been responsible for Daniel's promotion and if God wanted him demoted it would be God who would do it.
7. Daniel fully understood his options; he elected to continue in the same prayer pattern he established long ago.
8. What should be the believer's course of action when he is confronted with legislation which is contrary to the laws of God? If man's laws conflict with God's laws, divine law takes precedence!
9. The apostles, Peter and John, faced that dilemma when they were forbidden to declare the Gospel and the doctrines of Christ (Acts 4:17 and 18).

Acts 4:17 But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

Acts 4:18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Acts 4:19 But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.

10. They continued steadfastly in their mission and left the consequences in the Lord's hands.

11. There can be no compromise! Every believer must separate himself from apostasy!

12. This was precisely what Daniel did; "he went into his house" and he prayed.

13. The principle of privacy is God's protection of the believer's right of volition. Privacy and freedom go hand in hand!

14. Whereas Daniel 6:5 states only that Daniel's enemies hoped to use "the law of his God" against him, verse 10 adds exactly what they had in mind.

15. When Solomon dedicated the Temple in 1st Kings Chapter 8, he, among many other things, established the requirement for those future generations who may be in exile to pray facing Jerusalem.

16. Others, like Daniel, who had been taken into captivity were instructed to "pray [facing] toward the Temple."

17. Thus Daniel complied with the divine commandment of praying three times daily while facing the city and God's Temple.

Psa 55:17 "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."

18. This redoubled effort of prayer was a constant celebration in Daniel's soul for all that God had done for him and his people.

19. The phrase "as he did aforetime" literally encompasses the sixty-eight years that Daniel had been away from Jerusalem.

20. It was this very consistency in his prayer life that afforded the conspirators the opportunity to trap Daniel.

21. While Scripture only briefly describes Daniel's physical movements, it is rather easy to trace his mental attitude in this crisis:

22. He had committed the problem to the Lord.

Psa 55:22 Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

22.1 By utilizing the divine viewpoint in his soul, Daniel was occupied with Christ.

Psa 37:4-5 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

22.2 Daniel had accepted this plot as one which the Lord had permitted to transpire. He knew that God's will is always perfect.

Isa 28:29 This also cometh forth from the LORD of the Armies, Who is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in all that He does.

22.3 He thanked God for this crisis and was resigned to do the will of God: "... It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good" (1Sa 3:18b).

1Sa 3:11 And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

1Sa 3:12 In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

1Sa 3:13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not...

1Sa 3:18 And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.

22.4 Consequently, Daniel remained calm and undisturbed by worry as he followed the principle of Pro 3:5 and 6:

Pro 3:5 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Pro 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

22.5 He did not faint in his mind but continued in perfect peace:

Heb 12:3 For consider Him, Christ, Who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Isa 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Isa 26:4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

22.6 Finally, Daniel was victorious in his faith rest life, secure in the knowledge of God's omnipotence:

Psa 57:2 I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me.

Psa 57:3 He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth.

Psa 57:4 My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

Psa 57:5 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth.

Psa 57:6 They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah.

Psa 57:7 My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.

22.7 Like Daniel, we should let the Lord handle all of our problems.

22.8 It is ok to plan and execute, in fact it is incumbent upon us to so do, but we must remember the outcome is the Lord's.

23. In all this, it must be remembered that although Daniel was the favorite courtier of the king, were he to disobey the law he could not expect protection.

24. Darius would, in fact, try to use his power to preserve Daniel's life; yet his hands were tied by his own hasty and unwise decision.

25. What neither the king nor the other rulers realized was that Daniel's life was in the Lord's hands.

Psa 31:15 My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.

26. While human power persecutes, only divine power can protect.

Psa 33:10 The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.

27. Daniel relaxed in the knowledge of these principles and continued his unbroken relationship with the Lord through prayer, even though such conduct defied the new law which Darius had signed.

28. Neither the crises nor the pressures of life could uproot the happiness, power and peace in Daniel's soul.

29. Doctrine was more real, more important to him than was human legislation; and even as he lived by the Word, Daniel was ready to die by the Word!

30. Daniel will live to witness and teach another day. Unlike many who did not.

31. For example let's look at what history teaches of the destiny of our early Apostles. From "Foxes Book of Martyrs":

Stephen

Stephen suffered ... death was occasioned by the faithful manner in which he preached the Gospel ... they cast him out of the city and stoned him to death. The time when he suffered is generally supposed to have been at the Passover ... We are ... told by St. Luke, that "there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem;" and that "they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles." About two thousand Christians ... suffered martyrdom during the "persecution that arose about Stephen."

James the Great

The next martyr we meet ... according to St. Luke, in ... Acts, was James the son of Zebedee, the elder brother of John ... It was not until ten years after the death of Stephen that the second martyrdom took place; for no sooner had Herod Agrippa been appointed governor of Judea ... he raised a sharp persecution against the Christians ...

Philip

Was born at Bethsaida, in Galilee and was first called by the name of "disciple." He labored diligently in Upper Asia, and suffered martyrdom at Heliopolis, in Phrygia. He was scourged, thrown into prison, and afterwards crucified, A. D. 54.

Matthew

Whose occupation was that of a toll-gatherer, was born at Nazareth. He wrote his gospel in Hebrew, which was afterwards translated into Greek by James the Less. The scene of his labors was Parthia, and Ethiopia, in which latter country he suffered martyrdom, being slain with a halberd in the city of Nadabah, A. D. 60.

James the Less

Is supposed by some to have been the brother of our Lord, by a former wife of Joseph. This is very doubtful, and accords too much with the Catholic superstition, that Mary never had any other children except our Savior... At the age of ninety-four he was beaten and stoned by the Jews; and finally had his brains dashed out with a ... club.

Matthias

Of whom less is known than of most of the other disciples, was elected to fill the vacant place of Judas. He was stoned at Jerusalem and then beheaded.

Andrew

Was the brother of Peter. He preached the gospel to many Asiatic nations; but on his arrival at Edessa (the former capital of Macedonia [Greece]) he was taken and crucified on a cross, the two ends of which were fixed transversely in the ground. Hence the derivation of the term, St. Andrew's Cross.

Mark

Was born of Jewish parents of the tribe of Levi. He is supposed to have been converted to Christianity by Peter, whom he served as an amanuensis, and under whose inspection he wrote his Gospel in the Greek language. Mark was dragged to pieces by the people of Alexandria, at the great solemnity of Serapis their idol, ending his life under their merciless hands.

Peter

Among many other saints, the ... apostle Peter was condemned to death, and crucified ... at Rome ... Nero sought the matter against Peter ... Jerome said that he was crucified, his head being down and his feet upward himself so requiring, because he was (he said) unworthy to be crucified after the same form and manner as the Lord was.

Paul

Paul, the apostle, who before was called Saul, after his great travail and unspeakable labors in promoting the Gospel of Christ, suffered also in this first persecution under Nero... soldiers came and led him out of the city to the place of execution, where he, after his prayers ... gave his neck to the sword.

Jude

The brother of James, was commonly called Thaddaeus. He was crucified at Edessa, A. D. 72.

Bartholomew

Preached in several countries, and having translated the Gospel of Matthew into the language of India, he propagated it in that country. He was at length cruelly beaten and then crucified by the impatient idolaters.

Thomas

Called Didymus, preached the Gospel in Parthia and India, where exciting the mirage of the pagan priests, he was martyred by being thrust through with a spear.

Before moving to verse eleven, let me give you an expanded translation of Dan 6:10:

Expanded Translation:

"Now when Daniel had been advised that the law was signed, he went into his house for privacy; the window in his chamber being opened toward Jerusalem, he knelt upon his knees three times a day, as was commanded by God's Word, praying intensively for himself and his people as well as giving thanks before the God of Israel, as he had been doing for some sixty-eight years."

KJV

Dan 6:11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

NIV

Dan 6:11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

1. God's sense of humor is unique. "Men" is the Chaldean word GIBAR, and the correct translation is "heroes."
2. Only sanctified sarcasm would call such men heroes! While they should have been occupied with the business of governing a large empire, they were instead reduced to the level of common sneaks because of their mental attitude sins.
3. "Assembled" is the Aphel perfect (causative active) of the verb REGASH; it reveals their state of anxiety; these men hurried to catch Daniel in the act of praying.
4. So well-known was Daniel's reputation for taking a courageous stand for his God that the rulers were certain he would not miss even one prayer session!
5. Apparently his window facing the Holy City was visible from the street, and all that was required were several witnesses to swear that Daniel had been observed in prayer to his God.
6. As expected they found Daniel praying seeking grace for himself.
7. The trap was sprung and Daniel was I caught; but the instigators would later discover themselves embroiled in their own snare. A little preview:

Dan 6:24 At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

8. In any event, their plan had worked for the moment, and they were ready to go before the king.

9. It might help here to have an expanded translation of verse eleven.

Expanded Translation

Dan 6:11

"Then these heroes ran hastily to Daniel's house in order to spy on him, and found Daniel praying and seeking grace for himself before his God."

KJV

Dan 6:12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, 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 altereth not.

NIV

Dan 6:12 So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or man except to you, O king, would be thrown into the lions' den?" The king answered, "The decree stands--in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

1. Notice in verse 12 how cleverly the plotters manipulated Darius. They never mentioned Daniel's name nor hinted to the king that anyone had even violated his law.
2. They simply persuaded the king to restate the decree and emphasize the fact that it could not be abrogated by anyone!
3. Had Darius not been so impressed with his own importance, he might have realized that something was amiss.
4. However, anyone who is motivated by approbation lust rather than by divine standards is oblivious to the evils around him; and so Darius will suffer greatly because of the injustice he perpetrated by heeding the voices of wicked advisors.
5. Once the order is signed, the rulers drop their mask of formal courtesy and hypocrisy; their true nature now shows.

Now for an expanded translation of verse twelve:

Expanded Translation:

"Again these plotters assembled and spoke to the king concerning the royal decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who shall ask a petition of any God or man shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "This is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, the promulgation cannot be abolished."

The patriotism of Daniel will now be assaulted; the gloves have been taken off and I am sure at this point King Darius sees the true nature of this situation.

KJV

Dan 6:13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

NIV

Dan 6:13 Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day."

1. In contempt they referred to Daniel, not as a fellow member of the Triumvirate, but as "THAT Daniel."
2. Not the slightest reticence did they display in bringing a charge against someone from their own high echelon, but instead they described Daniel with the scornful phrase, the children of the captivity.
3. This reminder to the King and his court that Daniel was a foreigner was designed to cast aspersion on his patriotism, even though Daniel had proved his loyalty in the sixty-eight or so years since he was taken from Jerusalem.
4. During this time he had been appointed to the highest offices in the Chaldean Empire and most recently he was about to be made the second in command of the Persian Empire under Darius.
5. Yet none of these accomplishments were discussed; only the fact that at one time he was a captured hostage from the Land of the Jews.
 - 5.1 By this clever distortion of events, the plotters hoped to imply that Daniel was in revolt against the king.
6. The Peal perfect of SUM, with the strong negative adverb LO is translated "regardeth not thee," there is here a sly innuendo:
 - 6.1 Here is Daniel, a prime minister whose achievements have whetted his ambitious appetite; obviously, he has disdained the authority of the King by defying his orders; therefore, he must be dangerous to the empire!
7. The unjust charges were supported by a score of witnesses who eagerly swore that Daniel had indeed petitioned his own God three times daily.

8. It is interesting to speculate whether they had watched him an entire day in order to ascertain whether he defied the king three times, or whether they had based their statement on Daniel's past habits.

9. Verse 11 recall states only that they found him praying.

Dan 6:11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

10. Regardless of the veracity of their testimony, the charge had been embellished and these princes and regional managers must have congratulated themselves on the success of their efforts.

11. Daniel stood accused unfairly, yet justly, as stated under the present contrived statute.

12. The repeated reference to "the decree" demands that we discuss in detail the true purpose of legislation in a national entity.

13. The concept of nationalism was set up by God as a divine institution for the protection and perpetuation of the human race.

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