

1. Last week I finished teaching Dan 6:13, reviewed the Doctrine of Salt and when time ran out I was in the process of teaching Dan 6:14-15.

2. Before continuing with our study I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 6:1-13.

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.

Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel read the law, he went into his house for privacy; the window of his chamber being opened toward Jerusalem, he knelt upon his knees and prayed three times a day, just as God's Word demanded; he prayed intensively for himself and his people just as he had done for some sixty-eight years.

Dan 6:11 Then the conspiratorial heroes sent several of their servants to Daniel's house in order to spy on him, there they found Daniel praying for deliverance.

Dan 6:12 Armed with this information, the plotters assembled before Darius where they 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 had been made and cannot be changed.

Dan 6:13 Then the conspirators and enemies of Daniel answered the king, "Daniel is not a Persian nor is he a Mede, he is a foreigner, a Jew, and he has no regard for you, nor the decree which you just recently signed; he continues to pray three times a day to the God of Israel."

Now let's continue our study of "A King Ensnared."

KJV

Dan 6:14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

Dan 6:15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

1. When Darius "heard" (Peal perfect of SHEMA) these words, the King realized immediately that he had been trapped by his own personal weakness.

1.1 When a crisis occurs, particularly when it is of our own making, hindsight usually reveals our own short-comings.

2. Tragically, man is often blinded to the nature of his actions until he sees the consequences.

2.1 Darius had tripped over an obstacle of his own weakness and was "displeased".

3. Earlier Darius had immensely enjoyed the homage lavished upon him, but now he was completely disgusted with himself; he must sentence to death a person whom he admired and loved!

3.1 Too late, Darius discovered that ego and approbation lust pay miserable dividends.

3.2 True happiness only comes when we satisfy ourselves and realize there is only one Judge that counts and that is God. We must not live our lives for man but rather God who in due time will make all final calls.

1Co 4:3 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself.

1Co 4:4 My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.

3.3 We are not to live to please man; man's judgment is fickle and imperfect; as a believer we must judge ourselves by the absolute standard of the Word.

1Co 2:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

1Co 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

3.4 By judging ourselves we avoid suffering for discipline.

1Co 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

4. The passing of time has made no distinguishable changes in man's nature, despite the claims of the evolutionist; the lust pattern of the old sin nature is still the source of self-deception and misconduct.

5. We see so much of this today in Christianity where service is not motivated and empowered by the Holy Spirit but by approbation lust plus energy-of-the-flesh!

5.1 Many serve in order to one up one another in "bragamonies"; it is very easy when secular success occurs to want to be "a super Christian" or as the Captain of the football team testify how Christ saved you now look at me etc. ad nauseum.

Now let's return to our context and A King Ensnared:

6. At least Darius should be commended for his ability to grasp the situation and to attempt to rectify it; the conspirators, on the other hand, showed no signs of remorse and would shortly reap what they had sown.

7. Darius immediately "set his heart" on delivering Daniel. The king purposed to find a way "to deliver" his trusted right-hand man.

8. Where beforehand Darius was concerned only with his own importance, now he had become feverishly involved in a rescue effort for Daniel.

8.1 Yet for all his human power and resources, for all his desperate work that day, the king could find no legal means to rescind the edict.

9. A short time spent in contemplating the ramifications of such a decree before he signed it into law would have precluded this personal and national crisis.

10. A natural reaction to disaster and catastrophe is often voiced in these words: "Why did God let this happen to me?"

11. Had Daniel been subjective in his thinking, he would have asked this question and would have groaned right along with the king.

12. However, Daniel knew that God makes no mistakes in the handling of human affairs; He always knows what He is doing. People learn differently and there are many anecdotes in Scripture of God using "divers" circumstances to teach people.

13. For seven years Nebuchadnezzar had been relegated to the outdoor life of the animal kingdom in order that he might learn to recognize God as the One who ultimately controls history (Dan 4:32-34).

Dan 4:32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

Dan 4:33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

Dan 4:34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

13.1 Darius had been taught the same lesson in a different way so that he might realize the futility of human power and comprehend the omnipotence of God.

13.2 Daniel also had been taught in a different way just as you and I are taught in similar but different ways.

Dan 1:3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;

Dan 1:4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favored, and skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

Dan 1:5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

Dan 1:6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

Dan 1:7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Beltshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

14. The consequences of human folly can never be solved by human efforts; only God can untangle the knotted skein of man's entangled failures!

15. One thing is certain the plotters were persistent men! They permitted Darius only the remainder of that day to stew in his own misery.

15.1 As the sun set, they assembled again to prod the king into action. They reiterated what by now Darius was fully aware of: there was no way out of this royal mess, for the law of the Medes and Persians was clear; because that law had been violated, Daniel must be punished!

16. While we are primarily concerned with the petty tactics of power hungry courtiers, it should be remembered that the principle of the authority of a supreme decree was one of the built-in strengths of the Persian Empire.

17. Normally, this principle was an excellent safeguard of justice; however, its application in this case was distorted and resulted in a miscarriage of justice.

18. This same concept of "higher law" applies to the United States. Our Constitution was based on the tenets of the Bible; it was written by a group of men composed of believers and unbelievers, all of whom understood the need for a strong establishment.

19. Since that time, many laws have been passed which are outside the framework of divine law; therefore, many have become untenable in application.

19.1 For example, the graduated income tax, which became law in 1913 under Woodrow Wilson, is anti-Biblical.

20. Even corporate income taxes are outside the divine laws of establishment. Such taxation has become a tool for destroying incentive and is resulting in the subversion of the free enterprise system.

20.1 Only a personal income tax of a flat ten per cent is bona fide when put to the test of the Bible.

21. But the influx of socialistic doctrines into American politics is destroying the American way of life because such doctrines run counter to the divine laws of establishment upon which our Constitution was founded.

22. When there seems to be no recourse even in the highest court of our land, we must always remember that God's court of justice is still in session; He will dispense perfect justice in His own good time.

A point or two about the *Supreme Court of Heaven*:

1. The Supreme Court of Heaven makes for an excellent teaching aid.

1.1 The Supreme Court of Heaven consists of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

1.2 Cases are filed by believers only; they are filed directly to the Father in the name of the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit.

1.3 Just as lawyers today must be specially qualified and licensed to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court, only believers can file petitions before the Supreme Court of Heaven.

1.3.1 And I might add, only believers who follow the protocol plan of God as set forth under "the mechanics of prayer".

2. Prayer is the mechanism for filing.

2.1 God has exclusive venue for all matters touching the family of God. Heb 10:30 and Deu 32:35.

Heb 10:30 For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people."

Heb 10:31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Deu 32:35 It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."

3. The exclusivity of the venue cannot be overemphasized. Mat 7:1-2.

Mat 7:1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

Mat 7:2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

3.1 Just as the appropriate venues for causes of action are codified in the law so also has God given us in His word Who will judge; all judgment has been reserved for the Son.

3.2 Just as there is a "ton" of case law relating to "venue conflict" there are many anecdotes and a great deal of instruction in Scripture as to how God's judgment works.

3.2.1 And this includes judgment in time Heb 12:5-8, judgment at the Bema 1Co 3:11-15 and judgment at the GWT Rev 20:1-15.

Heb 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

1Co 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1Co 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

1Co 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

1Co 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1Co 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Rev 20 Ƴ:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

4. The Supreme Court of Heaven absolutely needs no help and the penalty for meddling is significant and traumatic.

5. No one gets away with anything therefore we are to bring our case to the Lord and leave the matter at His feet. Gal 6:7

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

6. Justice then is God's business and His decisions are always fair and compatible with His essence.

Psa 86:5 You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you.

Psa 7:9 Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins.

Psa 11:7 For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

7. The doors of the Supreme Court of Heaven are always open, 365 days a year, twenty-four hours a day; God is always ready to judge things like:

7.1 Evil in the world. Gal 6:7; Hos 8:7

Hos 8:7 For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk; the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.

7.2 Sinfulness and injustice in human affairs. Psa 55:22

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

End Lesson Taught 11-18-2001