

1. Last week I completed the Doctrine of The Supreme Court of Heaven, finished several summary points relating to Dan 6:13 and 14, exegeted and analyzed Dan 6:15 and when time ran out I was in the process of giving you several summary points related to Dan 6:16 and 17.
2. Before continuing that study I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 6:1-15.

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."

Dan 6:14 When the King heard these words, he was completely disgusted with himself; he realized that he must sentence a person he admired greatly; therefore, he put his mind to work to devise a plan to deliver Daniel; he labored throughout the day to this end.

Dan 6:15 The plotters were persistent and again assembled before the King and said, "Know, O King, that the law of the Medes and the Persians clearly denies modification or retraction of a law promulgated by the King; it cannot be changed by anyone.

3. Now let's continue our study of verses sixteen and seventeen.

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Dan 6:16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

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

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Dan 6:16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

Dan 6:17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed.

Principles:

1. Darius had no alternative but to order Daniel's execution He "commanded" (Peal perfect of AMAR) that the sentence be carried out.

1.1 Daniel was "brought" forth (Aphel perfect of ATHAH) and "cast" (literally, "thrown": Peal perfect of REMAH, "to cast, to throw") to the lions.

2. Many of you might think of Daniel as a young man sitting with a den of lions. I dare say anyone who has ever attended a Sunday school class was shown a picture of a

strapping youth, no older than his early twenties, amid a group of lions.

3. Yet it is an established fact that Daniel was in his early to mid-eighties at this time.

4. Keenly aware that his own inexcusable action was responsible for Daniel's ordeal, the king searched his mind for at least a few words of comfort for his loyal friend.

5. He sought to assure Daniel that, despite the turn of events, he still held him in high esteem.

5.1 Secretly, he hoped that Daniel would understand his embarrassing position.

6. As Darius stood over the yawning pit, probably located in the basement of the castle, he was painfully aware of Daniel's faithful and superb service to the empire and even more conscious of this Jew's love for his Lord!

7. As King and executioner what could Darius say to a man like Daniel?

8. Then the words came; Darius cried out, "Your God whom you servest continually [the Peal participle of PELACH], (denoting intensive and consistent worship), he will deliver thee" (Dan 6:16b).

Dan 6:16"... "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

9. The reference to "your God" [Daniel's God]" indicates that Darius at this point may have been an unbeliever; he lacked the personal and intimate relationship with Jehovah whom Daniel adored and served.

10. Since his own hands were tied, Darius fervently wished that somehow Daniel's God would rescue him ("he will deliver"; is the imperfect tense of SHEZAB thus indicating "He will continually deliver you").

11. Here is the first indication of positive volition on the part of Darius, for as the ultimate authority of a mighty realm, he recognized a Power greater than his own.

12. Admittedly these words were meant to comfort Daniel; but did the king really believe them?

12.1 It is one thing to talk a good fight but another to "fight the good fight of faith" (1Ti 6:12).

1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

13. Whatever the case, the entire sequence of events provides an insight into the character of this powerful King; from all indication Darius was a benevolent and enlightened dictator.

14. As a rule, his decisions were impartial and fair, based on objectivity.

14.1 He recognized that his own authority was limited by the greater power invested in the law of the land; hence, he must be governed by that law.

15. Darius also understood his error had resulted in a perversion or misapplication of law; his actions had caused innocent people to suffer.

15.1 The decree he had approved had victimized Daniel and no doubt many others were at best inconvenienced and at worst victimized by the state.

16. Humbled by that realization, the King admitted that there had to be an even higher law to be reckoned with: divine intervention!

16.1 His only option was to leave Daniel in the hands of his God for possible deliverance.

17. Yet as is the case with all unbelievers and with those believers who lack Bible doctrine in their souls, objective thinking soon gives way to emotionalism; irrational thinking provides nothing upon which to anchor one's faith.

18. And how did Daniel react to these adverse circumstances?

18.1 He weathered the stormy episode in his life just as he had in all previous ones; he did it with an inner calm and poise born of an unshakable devotion to his Lord; his thinking and actions were based on a firm conviction from that which was in his soul.

18.2 Bible doctrine resident in his soul forestalled resentment; Daniel bore the king no malice and neither attempted to clear himself nor to react or accuse his accusers.

19. Although they had openly expressed their hostility toward him, and even used immoral legislation as their whip, Daniel did not retaliate.

20. Instead of reaction, he displayed nobility of soul and applied the principle of Deu 32:35: "To Me [God] belongeth vengeance, and recompense...." Daniel left the matter in the Lord's hands.

21. Every inch a spiritual aristocrat, Daniel harbored no animosity toward his enemies, and thus avoided the greatest trap of all; the mental attitude sin of resentment and

revenge!

22. When caught in the quicksand of vindictiveness, a believer who fights back is sucked down to the level of his accusers.

23. Daniel's faith did not even waiver when the heavy stone was rolled over the opening of the den and he was faced with an abysmal darkness. He drew upon the promises of God.

Deu 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deu 31:7 Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their forefathers to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance.

Deu 31:8 The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Isa 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isa 41:11 "All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish.

Isa 41:12 Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all.

Isa 41:13 For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

Psa 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Jer 33:2 "This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it--the LORD is his name:

Jer 33:3 Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

Psa 56:3 When I am afraid, I will trust in you.

Psa 56:4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid...

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 forever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

24. Our Lord set the perfect example for every believer who suffers undeservedly: "Who,

when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously" (1Pe 2:23).

25. This was precisely what Daniel did; the rest was up to God.

26. Only one act remained to be performed: the king pressed his signet ring in the hot wax and "sealed" (Peal perfect of CHASAM) the edict.

26.1 In the ancient world, the impression of a seal constituted the ratification of all public documents, treaties or transactions; and the sealing of objects to protect them against theft, mutilation etc.

27. The royal seal guaranteed that no human hands could rescue Daniel with impunity; the king by the application of the royal seal had done his lamentable duty.

28. In addition to his own signet, Darius compelled every man who was involved in the creation of this legislation to stamp his seal into the hot wax.

28.1 An ancient act like "giving pens" to those sycophants who stand around the President when he is signing yet another federal law.

29. A point or two about the use of seals in Scripture:

29.1 Seals were used in antiquity:

29.1.1 as a guaranty of a transaction such as contracts, treaty, messages from a king.

29.1.2 Identification of ownership e.g. signet seals were often placed on chattels,

29.1.3 And military/government documents were often sealed.

29.2 At salvation the Holy Spirit seals us at the moment of salvation to guarantee us as children of God.

Eph 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were "sealed" with that Holy Spirit of promise,

Eph 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

29.3 Reversionism is incompatible with the sealing ministry of God the Holy Spirit.

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are "sealed" unto the day of

redemption.

29.4 The sealing of God the Holy Spirit then is the down payment of our membership in the Royal Family.

2Co 1:22 Who hath also "sealed" us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

29.5 Etymology: The Greek word for sealing is "**Sphragizo.**"

29.5.1 Strong has this to say of **Sphragizo.**

"Definition: to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation (literally or figuratively); by implication to keep secret, to attest..."

30. Ultimately, the king must shoulder the responsibility for the enactment of this ludicrous law; but he obviously wanted physical proof that his lords had contributed to this infamous deed.

30.1 How these nobles reacted to Daniel's apparent doom is not recorded. Did they have misgivings when they were required to affix their signatures on the stone, or did they gloat over their victory?

30.2 We can only speculate!

31. Yet while they stood and stared at the stone atop the den of lions, inside God probably used a similar stone from Daniel's past to remind him of a gigantic rock that would some day crush the governmental systems of this world.

31.1 Recall Daniel had interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream where the King saw "the stone cut out of the mountain without hands" (Dan 2:34-35).

Dan 2:34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

Dan 2:35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

32. Jesus Christ was and is the Rock who controls history, just as He holds in check the lives of men. Jesus Christ was and is still on the throne, ruling and overruling.

Let me give you a point or two about the Rock and how it is used in Scripture:

The Doctrine of the Rock

1. Jesus is the Rock, first to Israel and then to the Church.

Gen 49:24 But his bow remained steady, his strong arms stayed limber, because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel,

1.1 At the first Meribah at a place called Massah Moses strikes the Rock (the Rock is symbolic of Jesus says 1Cor 10:4) and there is water.

Exo 17:6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Exo 17:7 And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

1.2 The Rock providing the water was symbolic of Jesus.

1Co 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock (PETRA) that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

1.3 Striking the Rock was analogous to the crucifixion of our Lord. Jesus was crucified once and also we are to believe only once.

1.4 At the second Meribah at a place called Kadesh in the desert of Zin Moses makes the grave mistake of disobeying the Lord.

1.5 Moses is ordered to speak to the rock but instead he strikes the Rock and for this disobedience he is prohibited from seeing the promise land.

Num 20:8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

Num 20:9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

Num 20:10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

Num 20:11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

Num 20:12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this

congregation into the land which I have given them.

1.6 Notice as you compare the Meribah stories with 1Co 10:4 that there are several principles to glean:

1.7 The Lord wants only a right thing done in a right way.

1.8 Obedience is better than sacrifice, good intentions, secular wisdom etc.

1.9 Jesus is to be struck once meaning you are to believe once on the Lord Jesus Christ and you are saved. Jesus was crucified once for all.

2. God's judgment for time is severe certain and perfect given your needs. Moses was severely disciplined.

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.

3. Just before receiving the Law Tablets Moses is protected from the Deadly Sight of God by a cleft in the Rock (again the Rock is symbolic of Jesus).

Exo 33:21 Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock.

Exo 33:22 When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

Exo 33:23 Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

4. Interestingly the Lord leads us to places of no water to test our metal.

Deu 8:15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;

Deu 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

5. The Word of God is said to be a Rock which will sustain you against the tests of time.

Luk 6:48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and

could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

6. The Church is to be built upon The Rock called **Petra**, i.e., Jesus and Peter is to be called **Petros**, i.e., a little chip off the big Rock. The church is built on this statement of faith.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

7. Christ is the Rock upon which we "get to the Bema" for our evaluation as believers:

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.

Now let's return to our verse and our last principle:

33. Daniel would be safer in a den of hungry lions than in the palace with the vicious satraps and princes, for jealousy devours everyone within its periphery; recall our study, jealousy is a horrible mental attitude sin!

Before we move forward with what might be titled "MISERY IN THE PALACE" I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 6:16 and 17:

Dan 6:16 Sadly, the king gave the order, he had no alternative but to command that Daniel be brought forth and cast into the den of lions. Hoping that Daniel would understand his position in this matter, Darius said to Daniel "Your God whom you serve so well will no doubt deliver you.

Dan 6:17 After Daniel was thrown headlong into the pit, a large stone was placed over the mouth of the den; Darius' secretary brought the legislation under which Daniel had been prosecuted and the King of Persia placed his seal on the document; "there" said the conspirators, "it is done and no one can change what Darius the Great has sealed."

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