

1. Last week I taught Dan 6:18-20 and when time expired, I was exegeting verses 21 and 22.
2. Before continuing that study I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 6:1-20.

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.

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."

Dan 6:18 Darius returned to the palace and spent a miserable night without eating; he even refused the usual beauty pageant when he customarily selected his lady of the night. He got into his bed but he could not sleep.

Dan 6:19 At the break of dawn, the king put on his royal robe and hurried down the stairs to the lions' den.

Dan 6:20 When Darius and his entourage arrived in the basement of the Palace just above the den of lions, with a miserable voice he screamed out to Daniel: "O Daniel, servant of the living God whom you have faithfully served continually, was your God able to deliver you from the lions?"

And now for Daniel's exclamation of praise:

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Dan 6:21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

Dan 6:22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocence was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

NIV

Dan 6:21 Daniel answered, "O king, live forever!

Dan 6:22 My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."

Principles:

1. Darius stood over the gaping hole and waited expectantly. He had tried to prepare himself for the dreadful silence of death; this after all was to be expected.

2. He might have hoped for a groan that would indicate Daniel was hurt but still alive; better yet, for a sleepy voice, should a miracle have occurred!

3. When we as believers win a spiritual victory, this is when we are most vulnerable to what some might call "fat headedness."

3.1 This is when the fat headed believer often starts to gloat.

3.2 How easily Daniel could have gloated over his deliverance; after all, God had personally intervened on his behalf!

4. He could have rebuked the king in anger and exasperation or demanded instant punishment for all who had plotted against him!

4.1 Daniel, however, was not the vindictive type. From early on he had learned in the palace of Josiah to leave vengeance with the Lord.

5. Even in the lions' den he maintained poise and observed court protocol in the customary address: "O king, live forever."

5.1 Did the hopeful thought of eternal life for Darius cross Daniel's mind as he uttered those words? It would so seem a possibility.

5.2 As a mature believer, and certainly Daniel was such, Daniel no doubt was sensitive to the spiritual needs of those in his periphery.

6. He must have recognized the king's positive attitude toward God; perhaps God had delivered him to lead this man to the Messiah!

6.1 Certainly Daniel would have used every opportunity to clarify the issue of salvation, i.e., to make sure the issue is Christ and not any false issues which might have tempted him.

7. Had Daniel said, "Look at me; I have survived this ordeal," he would have made an issue of himself.

7.1 Conceivably, he might have risen to a new pinnacle of importance in the eyes of Darius.

8. Instead, Daniel gave all the credit to God. His use of the possessive pronoun "My God" again demonstrated his awareness of his personal relationship with the Lord.

Let's stop here for a moment and take a look at the *Doctrine of Witnessing*.

Doctrine of Witnessing

1. Witnessing is the responsibility of every believer.
2. Witnessing is the normal exhale of doctrine inhaled.
3. Witnessing will be effective regardless of the motivation of the one witnessing.
4. The power is in the Word.

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

5. The convincing of sin, righteousness and judgment is the responsibility of God the Holy Spirit.

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Joh 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Joh 16:9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

Joh 16:10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

Joh 16:11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

6. Some false concepts of witnessing

- Assuming the lost will not be saved if we do not witness
- Assuming you are spiritual because you witness

- Assuming you are spiritual because you witness "effectively"
- Assuming you must ask people to accept Christ in your presence
- Assuming God is not using you if God does not lead you to a "target"

7. God will make certain every believer gets the gospel.

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Joh 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened....

Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

7.1 We can therefore relax and enjoy the privilege of witnessing.

8. We should witness simply because God said to do it.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9. Agencies of Witnessing

9.1 Every believer is responsible for presenting the gospel to a lost and dying world.

9.2 The family plan:

9.2.1 The first parents set the example for all future parents by witnessing to their children.

9.2.2 The family plan of evangelism continued up and through the time of Noah and it is our job today as parent and grandparents to witness to members of our families.

9.3 The Nation Israel - Jewish Age

9.3.1 After God destroyed the Tower of Babel, after selecting a people and after the sojourn in Egypt, He created the nation Israel as His priest nation.

9.3.2 It was their job to witness to a lost world which from time to time they did, but very often reluctantly.

9.4 Today, of course, as we have already seen it is the universal church.

9.4.1 A client nation to God will provide freedom to evangelize both internally and externally.

9.5 Israel - Tribulation

9.5.1 Once again Israel will take the lead in this age of trial for Jacob. In those seven devastating years, 144,000 Jewish evangelist, the resurrected Moses and Elijah, an angel and a big bird will spread the Gospel throughout the World.

9.5.2 Jewish Evangelists:

Rev 7:4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel ...

Rev 7:9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

9.5.3 Elijah and Moses

Rev 11:3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

Rev 11:5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.

Rev 11:6 These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

Rev 11:7 Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.

Rev 11:8 Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

Rev 11:9 For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.

Rev 11:10 The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

Rev 11:11 But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them.

Rev 11:12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

9.5.4 Angelic Witnesses

Rev 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people.

9.5.5 A Large Bird

Rev 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an eagle [Aetos - a flesh eating bird] flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels [Angelos], which are yet to sound!

9.6 The Millennium

9.6.1 The personal reign of Jesus Christ begins with only believers but there are children with volition born to believers and each generation will need to be evangelized.

9.6.2 The responsibility for evangelism seems to rest with the Lord Jesus for so extensive is the knowledge of Christ, there will no longer be a need for teachers.

Isa 11:9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Jer 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

10. Our job is to accurately present the claims of Christ with a relaxed mental attitude responding to the positive volition of those who are ready for gospel hearing.

1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

10.1 The Holy Spirit will do the rest of the work, recall the power is in the Word.

11. People simply believe for salvation as opposed to walking the aisle, raising their hand, signing a card, cleaning up their life etc.

11.1 The view that faith is not enough is blasphemous, arrogant and denies the Doctrine of The Total Depravity of Man.

Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

End Lesson Taught 12-16-2001