

1. Last week I taught Dan 6:21 and when time ran out I was teaching the Doctrine of Witnessing; I had gotten down to point 11.2.
2. Before continuing that study I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 6:1-21.

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?"

Dan 6:21 With the greatest of calm, Daniel said to the King, "O king, live forever!

Let me quickly review some of that covered last week and then I will pick up with new material at point 11.2 and page 6.

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*. Mankind is “no dang good—he is without hope, without Christ and without eternal life and his works are like filthy rags and deceit and wickedness characterize his being.

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?

Now for new material:

11.2 Let us take a look at a few Scriptures which tell us faith is sufficient without works and one which even tells us "the more you work the greater the debt".

Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Rom 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Rom 4:4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

Rom 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Joh 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Joh 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Joh 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

12. So faith alone in the Work of Christ is sufficient for salvation.

13. As ambassadors for Christ believers are the primary agents of witnessing in the Church Age.

2Co 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

2Co 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

2Co 6:3 Giving no offense in anything, that the ministry be not blamed:

14. To give no offense demands a knowledge of Doctrine.

15. In witnessing we must avoid false issues and theological questions like as the false issues of sin and human good.

1Jo 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

16. Witnessing comes in two ways: the example of your life and the word of your lips.

2Co 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

17. The reward for witnessing is part of your blessing both for time as well as for eternity.

Dan 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

18. Now back to our study of Daniel and his natural witness to King Darius.

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.

1. Darius listened with rapt attention to the account of Daniel's miraculous deliverance: "My God hath sent [the Peal perfect of SHELACH] his angel" a reference to the pre-incarnate Savior, the Angel of Jehovah—Jesus Christ.

2. The simple yet profound statement of God's personal intervention on behalf of a mature believer indicates God's gracious concern for His own.

3. Nor does this incident stand out as unique in the annals of man's history! The Father had sent His Son to rescue believers in peril time and time again.

4. Just as Jesus Christ had walked in the flames with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Dan 3:25), He had spent the night with Daniel in the lions' den.

Dan 3:25 Nebuchadnezzar said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

5. Jesus Christ is invisible to the human eye in the dispensation" of the Church; yet our fellowship with him is nevertheless real (1Pe 1:8).

1Pe 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

6. All believers should know of the Lord's presence in times of normalcy as in times of crisis; for he [Jesus Christ] hath said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb 13:5b).

Heb 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

End Lesson Taught 12-23-2001