

1. Last week I taught Dan 6:21 and when time ran out I was teaching Dan 6:22.
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!

3. 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 innocency 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.

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. This incident does not stand out as unique in the annals of man's history!
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.
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).
6. All believers who know doctrine are assured 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).
7. The Peal perfect of SEGAR has a primary and a secondary meaning:
 - 7.1 it means "to deliver";
 - 7.2 and it means "to shut." Both declare that God "delivered [Daniel] from the lions' mouths."
8. Neither the fall nor the lions had "hurt" (Pael imperfect of CHABAL) or "injured" Daniel in any way!
9. When you are caught up in some dreadful disaster; remember that no matter how grave the danger, as a mature believer, you are perfectly safe in the Lord's hands.

Eph 3:12 In Christ Jesus we have boldness and a confident access to the Father with boldness because we have believed on the Name of the only born One of God.

Mat 10:30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

1Th 5:18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

1Pe 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Jer 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Isa 41:10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Deu 31:6 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

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

Pro 14:26 He who fears and respects the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.

Rom 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Rom 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Psa 118:8 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Psa 118:9 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

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

Isa 30:20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:

Isa 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Deu 1:17 Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.

10. Following Daniel's example, we must do our jobs as unto the Lord and leave the consequences in His hands.

11. In Daniel 6:22, the noun ZAKU was incorrectly translated "innocency"; it should have been rendered "purity."

12. The term "innocence" is a misnomer, since all members of the human race possess an old sin nature and are "guilty" before God (Rom. 3:23).

13. "Innocency" in the true sense of the word became extinct with the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden (Rom. 5:12).

14. On the other hand, purity of mind is that mental and spiritual status of the mature believer in fellowship with God.

15. It indicates a human spirit filled with Bible doctrine and its maximum application to daily living. Such purity of mind "was found" (Ithpael of SHEKACH) literally, "was obtained" by Daniel.

16. Day by day, year after year, he persisted unforced in the study of doctrine. Eventually divine viewpoint became his way of life.

17. Therein lay the secret of Daniel's success! Divine viewpoint dictated a totally relaxed mental attitude, even in undeserved suffering.

18. Throughout this nightmare Daniel had not once experienced vindictiveness or unfaithfulness toward the king or his accusers. Daniel expressed his grace attitude by saying, "I have done no hurt."

19. Now let's see how Dan 6:22 looks by way of expanded translation:

Expanded Translation:

Dan 6:22 "My God has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, Who has delivered me from the lions"; they have not hurt me, my God has respected the doctrine in my soul; before you, O King, I have also been faithful."

20. And now for Darius's Reaction.

KJV

Dan 6:23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

NIV

Dan 6:23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

1. Unbelievers frequently manifest their instability.

1.1 First, the king was miserable; now he was exuberant. "Exceeding" is the adjective, SAGI, which means "very much"; "glad" is the Peal perfect of TEAB, which means "happy."

2. The king was bubbling over with enthusiasm because an apparent fiasco had turned out well.

3. In both immature believers (2Co 7) and unbelievers (our verse), a mood of despondency can be overturned by a change of circumstances.

End Lesson Taught 12-30-2001