

1. Last week I taught Dan 6:25, 26 and 27; when time ran out I was about to exegete Dan 6:28.

2. Before continuing I want to provide an expanded translation of Dan 6:1-24.

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!

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

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."

Dan 6:23 Darius was overcome with joy; he gave orders to get Daniel out of the lion's den. When Daniel was lifted out from the pit the Kings physicians examined him and determined he had not so much as a bruise. Daniel was delivered because he had earlier placed his trust in Christ for salvation and doctrine for temporal deliverance.

Dan 6:24 Again the King issued a command, and those men who had accused Daniel were brought forth and cast into the den of lions, together with their children and their wives. They had not reached the bottom of the pit when the lions seized them; the conspirators and their families were torn apart the lions eating them bones and all.

3. Before I exegete the last verse of Daniel chapter six I want to provide our translation of verses 25, 26 and 27 developed last week.

Dan 6:25 After these events had transpired, King Darius, now a believer, addressed a message to all the racial, geographical and linguistic entities within his jurisdiction saying, "The peace of Jehovah God be multiplied unto you."

Dan 6:26 "I hereby issue a decree: That in every dominion of my kingdom men shall tremble and fear the God of Daniel; for He is the living God, the same yesterday, and today and forever; and even though nations and empires come and go in time, His dominion includes the entire universe, and His eternal kingdom shall not be destroyed.

Dan 6:27 "He not only provides spiritual deliverance in salvation but physical deliverance in time; He warns of discipline and provides methods by which the Gospel is declared; and it is the God of Israel who has physically rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

4. Now let's finish the chapter.

KJV

Dan 6:28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

NIV

Dan 6:28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Principles:

1. The Aphel perfect of TSELACH means "to be caused to prosper." By using this stem, God shows us a glimpse of the blessings He alone provides for the spiritually mature believer in time.

2. The Lord more than amply supplied all the details of life for this believer who had consistently been faithful to the Word.

3. We have no record of Daniel again suffering trials and tribulations as he had in the past.

4. Although we do not know the exact age of Daniel at his death, we are told that he lived at least into the third year (approximately 535 B.C.) of the reign of Cyrus the Great of Persia (Dan 10:1).

Dan 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.

5. If we fix the probable date of Daniel's birth as 620 B.C., we can estimate that he lived some eighty-five years, and possibly longer.

6. Not only were the remaining years of his life full to overflowing with God's grace blessings and riches, but Daniel's desire to see his people, the Jews, restored to their own land came to fruition.

7. Scripture records that in approximately 536 B.C. Cyrus permitted the Jewish captives to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple (2Ch 36:22 and 23; Ezr 1:2 and 3).

2Ch 36:22 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:

2Ch 36:23 "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: "The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Anyone of his people among you--may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up."

Ezr 1:2 "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: "The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah.

Ezr 1:3 Anyone of his people among you--may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem.

7.1 Wycliffe writes: "It was in 605 B.C. that Jeremiah had prophesied the seventy-year captivity of Judah (Jer 25:12; compared with Jer 25:1). And it was this prophecy that caused Daniel to pray for the deliverance of his people in the year of Babylon's fall (Dan 9:2)."

7.1.1 The 70 years known, computed and anticipated by Daniel were from 606 B.C. when Judah was first exiled until 536 B.C. when Cyrus authorized a return to the land to rebuild the Temple.

Jer 25:12 And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

Jer 25:1 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon;

Dan 9:2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel under stood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

7.1.2 The many fulfilled prophecies of Daniel provide to us as students of the Word, a profound assurance that the many eschatological promises found in other Books of the Bible will come to fruition.

7.1.3 Such profundities however are beyond the scope of the immature believer and leave he or she a casualty in the angelic conflict.

8. What a challenge it is to contemplate that every believer, by means of God's grace, can reach spiritual maturity whereby blessings are continually realized and God's Word becomes more real than reality!

9. God provided grace beyond measure for Daniel; and what He did for Daniel, He can do for you, for me or for any other believer.

10. The key that unlocks the door to these special blessings is doctrine resident in the soul.

11. Moreover, the daily intake of the Word is our best preparation for every exigency of life.

12. We have no record of Daniel ever compromising the grace of God! So commendable was the production of his spiritual maturity that the Holy Spirit included Daniel's heroics in the New Testament roll of honor among the exploits of the greatest believers of the past.

Expanded Translation

Heb. 11:33 Who themselves, BY MEANS OF DOCTRINE RESIDENT IN THE SOUL, conquered kingdoms, accomplished grace righteousness, attained divine promises, and SHUT THE MOUTHS OF LIONS.

KJV

Heb 11:33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.

NIV

Heb 11:33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,

13. The divine citation for Daniel's bravery in the line of duty (the angelic conflict) makes the narrative of Daniel 6 far more than an epic.

14. Emblazoned between the lines of this testimony is the truth of Bible Doctrine! May the coming year of 2002 see its effect become manifest in our lives!

15. Now for an expanded translation of our last verse:

Expanded Translation:

Dan 6:28 So by the grace of God, Daniel was caused to prosper throughout the reign of Darius Cyaxares II and into at least the third year of Cyrus the Great of Persia.

Daniel Chapter Six Summary Points:

1. God disciplines nations by replacing rulers under the principle of the fifth cycle of discipline.

1.1 The "head of gold" was replaced by the "arms and breast of silver."

2. However, the ebb and flow of empires does not change the believer's objective on earth. God's plan for the believer continues, regardless of circumstances.

3. In God's service age does not hinder success.

4. Bible doctrine in the soul qualifies the believer to succeed in life.

5. Divine promotion for a believer is a result of spiritual faithfulness.

6. Rebellion against divinely established authority, like all sins, begins with a mental attitude sin.

7. The mental attitude sin of jealousy usually leads to overt acts of revenge.

8. The mental attitude sin of one person can affect the lives of many others.

9. When the believer becomes the object of envy and vindictiveness, he must not retaliate but should commit the matter to the Lord.

10. One of God's protections for freedom is the principle of privacy.

11. The lust pattern of the old sin nature is the basis of great misery and unhappiness.
12. When human power persecutes only divine power can protect.
13. A believer with doctrine can be happy in a lion's den, while an unbeliever can be miserable in a palace; hence, happiness is a grace provision from God.
14. Every believer must sooner or later face his own den of lions. How you face a crisis determines your spiritual success or failure in life.
15. Utilization of the faith rest technique and doctrine resident in your soul are the basis for serving the Lord in time.
16. Legislation can never solve the problems of life; only regeneration followed by the consistent use of the two power options can provide solutions.
17. Just for the record I want to provide an expanded translation of Daniel Chapter six:

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.

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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.

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Dan 6:27 "He not only provides spiritual deliverance in salvation but physical deliverance in time; He warns of discipline and provides methods by which the Gospel is declared; and it is the God of Israel who has physically rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

Dan 6:28 So by the grace of God, Daniel was caused to prosper throughout the reign of Darius Cyaxares II and into at least the third year of Cyrus the Great of Persia.

Now we begin a new chapter which does not follow chronologically chapter seven nor will the visions described in all subsequent chapters follow chronologically.

1. Introduction:

1.1 You will see in verse one that a ruler by the name of Belshazzar appears.

1.2 This is the same Belshazzar we "got rid of" at the big banquet when we studied the handwriting on the wall.

1.3 You will no doubt recall the Scriptures told us he was killed when the forces of Cyrus under the command of Darius entered under the wall.

1.4 So what gives here? Chapter seven like the rest of the Book of Daniel needs to be read and studied with the understanding its contents must be fitted historically upon a matrix of the earlier six chapters already studied.

1.5 Such need is obvious from verse one of our chapter seven.

KJV

Dan 7:1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

NIV

Dan 7:1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

Principles:

1. Several important changes begin in this chapter.

1.1 As just noted, up to chapter seven the material is mainly historical.

1.2 Henceforth it is mainly predictive.

1.3 Prior to chapter seven Daniel has been God's agent in interpreting the dreams of others.

1.4 Hereafter, an angel interprets Daniel's own dreams and visions.

Dan 7:16 I approached one of those (an angel) standing there and asked him the true meaning of all this. "So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things:

Dan 8:15 While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man.

Dan 8:16 And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision."

Dan 8:17 As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the time of the end."

Dan 9:20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill--

Dan 9:21 while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.

Dan 9:22 He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding.

Dan 9:23 As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision:

Dan 10:10 A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

Dan 10:11 He (an angel) said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

Dan 10:12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

Dan 10:13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

Dan 10:14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

1.5 Heretofore Daniel has reported in the third person; hereafter he writes in the first person, giving a much more intimate report of his experiences.

1.6 A transition from prophecy centered in Gentile nations to Jewish-centered prophecy takes place with the entrance of the "holy people" (rendered "saints" in Dan 7:18, 22 and 25).

Dan 7:18 But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever--yes, forever and ever.'

Dan 7:22 until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

Dan 7:25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

1.7 The Jews are the center of interest from our chapter seven to the book's end.

2. The same succession of kingdoms that was found in chapter 2 appears here - four Gentile empires, then the kingdom of the Messiah comes.

3. Let's look at the historical setting of Dan 7:1.

3.1 The first year of Belshazzar can be calculated as being about fourteen years before the events of chapter five. Recall chapter five tells of the demise of Belshazzar.

Dan 5:1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

Dan 5:2 Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

3.1.1 This would make it about 553 B.C. Most historians round it to approximately 550 B.C.

3.2 It is likely that Babylonian weakness was already beginning to show; signs of the fifth cycle for Babylon were creeping up over the nation's horizon.

3.3 The book of Daniel is full of dreams and visions. A point or two here about these two phenomena of revelation as they relate to our chapter.

3.3.1 Dreams are experiences in sleep; visions may occur in a waking condition, or, as here, they may be successive "scenes" or stages in a dream.

3.3.2 The Scripture tells us Daniel recorded the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

3.4 He recorded it immediately (then or thereupon, or at that time, as the Aramaic EDAYIN emphatically requires).

3.5 It was written only in summary fashion as the Aramaic also demands. What he recorded was only a summary of what was revealed.

3.6 Dreams and visions no doubt were, before the completion of the Canon, a valid and chosen method of divine revelation.

3.7 Dreams and visions today are only tools of Satan whereby he can get his foot in the door; we need no extra-Biblical revelation today.

4. Before I move to the visions let me give you an expanded translation of verse one:

Dan 7:1 In the first year of the Babylonian co-regency of Nabonidus and Belshazzar in approximately 550 B.C., Daniel had a dream; he was lying on his bed when he saw several visions. He recorded the visions in summary fashion in his diary.

End Lesson Taught 1-27-2002