

**OPEN YOUR WINDOW.....
SO YOU CAN HEAR THE PLOT AGAINST YOU**



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**We continue our sermons
in the book of Daniel**

Where we last left off at the end of Daniel Chapter 5, Belshazzar is killed and the Persians take control of Babylon

**→ The Babylonian empire falls and never
regains its power**

The Bible states that Darius the Mede becomes ruler of Babylon:

→ this name is lost to history, there are no historical

documents confirming who this actually was

→ some think it was King Cyrus himself

→ some think it was a general named Gobryas, who

Cyrus made ruler of Babylon for a time after the conquest

Daniel 6:1-3 King James Version

1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Persian policy appeared to be that of appointing local leaders to rule over their own people

→ this was done more likely to secure support of the conquered people and not start an uprising

**There were 120 princes and
3 presidents, and Darius
favored Daniel over all of them**

**HOW DID DARIUS KNOW THAT
DANIEL HAD AN
“EXCELLENT SPIRIT IN HIM”?**

**AS FAR AS WE KNOW THEY HAD
NEVER
MET BEFORE, SO HOW IS THAT
POSSIBLE?**

**A GODLY REPUTATION WILL CARRY
YOUR
NAME TO THE ENDS OF THE
EARTH!!!**

Make note of what the Bible says here

“and the king shall have no loss”

→ one of the jobs of the princes was to oversee the collection and delivery of tribute, which provides ample opportunity for corruption

**AND NOW DANIEL IS BEING PLACED
ABOVE ALL THESE GUYS??**

THIS CONQUERED FOREIGNER??

THIS OLD MAN??

**CAN YOU FEEL THE
HATE/ENVY/RAGE
FROM THESE PERSIANS??**

2 Timothy 3:12 King James Version

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Psalm 119:161 King James Version

**161 Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but
my heart standeth in awe of thy word.**

Psalm 119:157 King James Version

**157 Many are my persecutors and mine enemies; yet
do I not decline from thy testimonies.**

Daniel 6:4-5 King James Version

4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

**The Bible says point blank the
Persians could find no fault or
blame in Daniel (not perfect)**

**DESPERATE TIMES....DESPERATE
MEASURES**

**WHAT DO THEY DECIDE TO DO TO
TRY AND
GET RID OF DANIEL??

TO MAKE JEHOVAH ILLEGAL!!!!**

Daniel 6:6-9 King James Version

6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

**The plot is hatched,
and the king is offered a proposal**

**A new decree is to be issued, every
citizen is required to acknowledge
the state/government supremacy
for 30 days**

IN OTHER WORDS.....

**LOYALTY TO GOD OR LOYALTY TO
THE GOVERNMENT!!!!**

WHAT WILL YOU CHOOSE?

**The lions' den awaits those who
choose "wrongly"**

**Pay attention to the Bible's words here
"have consulted together"**

**→ they pressure and trick Darius by
implying that this will unify the empire
by rallying the people around the king**

WHEN IT COMES TIME TO DO EVIL,

EVERYONE

“CONSULTS TOGETHER”!!

Consider Darius' state of mind:

- he wanted peace in his empire**
- 30 days seemed reasonable to those people who prayed to multiple gods**
- he still trusted the princes even though he favored Daniel over them**
- since they all “consulted together”, did he assume
Daniel agreed to this as well?**

**WE ARE ABOUT TO SEE THE
CENTERPIECE OF OUR STORY**

Daniel 6:10-12 King James Version

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

**Daniel is fulfilling Solomon's
dedication of the temple from
1 Kings 8:46-50**

**Daniel's windows were open to
praise and worship God**

**IT WAS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT
DANIEL PRAYED 3 TIMES A DAY**

(“as he did aforetime” aka as he had done previously)

**DANIEL'S WINDOWS WERE OPEN,
THEN THE EVIL ARRIVES**

AFTER HE STARTS PRAYING!!

**HOW MANY OF YOUR PROBLEMS STARTED
AFTER YOU STARTED PRAYING??**

Luke 18:1 King James Version

**18 And he spake a parable unto them to this end,
that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;**

James 5:13-14 King James Version

13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

Notice that the officials ask the kings to confirm his edict, so it will be harder for him to avoid not condemning Daniel

**TO GET RID OF YOU AND YOUR GOD,
THE ENEMY WILL**

**LIE/DECEIVE/AMBUSH
KINGS OF NATIONS TO DO SO!!!**

Daniel 6:13-15 King James Version

**13 Then answered they and said before the king,
That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity
of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree
that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three
times a day.**

**14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was
sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on
Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going
down of the sun to deliver him.**

15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

The charges laid against Daniel:

- Jewish loyalist**
- he committed treason, betraying the king's law**
- he continued to pray to his God**

**Just like Belshazzar previously, the comment
about Daniel being "of the children of the
captivity of Judah" shows the Persians**

**prejudice/racism
towards him despite his powerful position**

**HAS ANYONE HATED YOU AND YOUR GOD
BECAUSE YOU WERE PROMOTED??**

**The king realizes he has been
deceived and tries until sundown to
reverse the decision**

**→ his advisors tell him a king's edict
is irreversible**

**DARIUS' ACTIONS PROVE HE IS A MORE
COMPASSIONATE KING THAN
NEBUCHADNEZZAR OR BELSHAZZAR**

Daniel 6:16-17 King James Version

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.

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.

**Daniel thrown into the lion's den,
but Darius believed the Lord would
save Daniel**

**Notice the king's reference to
Daniel serving the Lord continually:**

**→ this suggests Daniel's strong
testimony of
God to the king**

**WHO REMEMBERS THAT A HUGE
STONE WAS ROLLED OVER THE
ENTRANCE TO THE LIONS DEN?**

**AND SEALED WITH THE KING'S
SEAL??**

DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?

**The royal seal indicates the king's authority
stands behind the execution**

Daniel 6:18-20 King James Version

18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

**THE KING SPENDS THE NIGHT FASTING
AND
NOT RESTING!!!**

WAS HE A SECRET BELIEVER??

At the earliest possible moment the next morning, Darius races to discover Daniel's fate and cries out for him

Daniel 6:21-23 King James Version

21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. 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. 23 Then was the king exceedingly 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.

**Daniel was not harmed in any way,
shape or form**

**→ God sends an angel to shut the
lions mouths**

**KING DARIUS SPENT THE NIGHT FASTING,
AND SO DID THE LIONS!!!**

GOD PROTECTS HIS PEOPLE FROM DESTRUCTION!!

2 Timothy 4:18 King James Version

18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Peter 2:9 King James Version

9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Isaiah 46:4 King James Version

4 And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

Daniel was found blameless before God and the king, he had honored both of them

He trusted in God during the darkest of times, and was rewarded for his faithfulness

Daniel 6:24 King James Version

24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

DARIUS'S RESPONSE TO THE ACCUSERS OF DANIEL??

**HE HAS THEM AND THEIR ENTIRE FAMILIES
FED TO THE LIONS AND SLAUGHTERED!!!**

**Ancient Near Eastern law affects the
families of false accusers as well as
the accusers themselves
(Deut 19:16-21)**

Daniel 6:25-28 King James Version

25 Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and steadfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

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

Darius issues a proclamation:

- Jehovah is the living God who endures forever**
- his kingdom and rule shall never pass away**
- he delivers and saves**
- he works miracles**
- he rescued Daniel from the lions den**

**WHEN FAITH IN GOD PROVES TRUE,
OTHER PEOPLE WILL BE CONVICTED!!!!**

Daniel prospers over decades through the reigns of multiple rulers in a foreign land

**WHEN YOU OPEN YOUR WINDOW TO PRAISE GOD,
CAN YOU HEAR THE PLOT AGAINST YOU??**

DANIEL'S PRAYER LIFE MADE HIM AN EASY TARGET!!!

THE SAME IS TRUE FOR US TODAY!!!

**WHEN THE FALSE ACCUSERS ARRIVE AND
FORCE YOU TO MAKE A DECISION,
WHAT WILL YOU DO?**

**WILL YOU CHOOSE THE
WORLD/GOVERNMENT/STATE SUPREMACY?**

**OR WILL YOU FOLLOW DANIEL'S LEAD AND
CHOOSE GOD OVER EVERYTHING??**

**LET HIM BE OUR EXAMPLE TO STAY TRUE TO
GOD EVEN IN THE DARKEST TIMES!!!!**

**OUR FAITH IN ACTION WILL BRING NEW
BELIEVERS INTO THE KINGDOM!!!**

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