

Daniel

Government Employee

Daniel 6:18-28 Then the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him. **19** Then the king arose at dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions' den. **20** When he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?" **21** Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever! **22** "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime." **23** Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. **24** The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they cast them, their children and their wives into the lions' den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. **25** Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language who were living in all the land: "May your peace abound! **26** "I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, and His dominion will be forever. **27** "He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has also delivered Daniel from the power of the lions." **28** So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

- NOTE: As we go thru this political season, we do so looking to vote according to biblical principles, that the one elected would be most likely to bring about biblically principled outcomes. As we do so, we are to value our brotherhood in Christ above our political orientation. We will have differences, but we will maintain our unity in the Spirit.
- Most of the people used by God in the Bible were NOT full-time ministers
- We don't have to wait for an edict to act on God's behalf;
- God used people in business & government to do great things.

I. Pathway To Employment; Dan 1

- Wasn't pleasant & didn't come by virtue of his education or training
- When God gives us a job we don't enjoy, He is giving us lessons by which we can learn & grow in our attitude. We hold our jobs by choice and as such have tremendous, PAID opportunities to grow and

become better disciples of Christ.

- Daniel had no option in what he did; he was taken captive from Jerusalem and brought to Babylon where, as a promising young man, he was employed and had to work at risk of death. There was no way out – he was truly “stuck”.
- It must have brought consternation to Daniel as to why God would allow this. He had been a good servant of God, born free and impressed into service of an ungodly king who oppressed Daniel’s people. He was no doubt ridiculed by his own people and even regarded as a traitor.
- Attitude he had:
 - To expand God’s purposes in the earth. His was not a mentality to “keep mine” but to “expand His” – to look for the expansions of God’s purpose
 - To show forth his God as “head & shoulders” above their gods so as to make them jealous to know the God of Israel.

II. Performance Of Duties; Dan 1:20, Dan 6:3

- Daniel was impressed into service of a kingdom & a king who oppressed his people. But even there, Daniel found ways to be faithful to God and faithful to the king he served.

NOTE: We are going to practice Christian love & grace to accommodate one another in this political season.

- He performed his duties excellently. Daniel set himself apart and refused to be formed & shaped in the way others were, refusing to give up their dietary laws. They insisted on not eating what the king served them.
 - Dietary laws were aimed at helping his people to understand his attitude toward cleanliness
 - Daniel and his compatriots honored God and He honored them by prospering them and giving them health. They were committed to not compromise their standards when engaging the world they lived in.
 - They proved to be exemplary in their performance. They

were “10 times” better than those they worked with. Their “spirit was better”. Daniel distinguished himself to such a degree that Darius put him over all the governors & leaders.

- When you find yourself in a difficult place, what is your attitude, do you have a smile, do you trust God to use you for his purpose? Having an excellent spirit allows God to raise you up as his servant.
- His servant was so good that he served under 3 kings – 2 Babylonian kings & Darius, king of the Medes.

III. Persecution For Righteousness; **Dan 6:4-9**

- Daniel was made ruler under Darius’ rule as executive counselor over all the other governors. Daniel remained in that environment so as to be an influence for God in that situation.
- The other governors of Darius conspired to destroy Daniel. Daniel was an upstart and resented by the other Mede leaders. These rulers in their conspiracy manipulated the king and maneuvered him to write a law that prohibited prayer to any other god & would bring judgment to Daniel. The king had to judge Daniel, but because of Daniel’s influence Darius anticipated that God would save Daniel.
- The king didn’t sleep & fasted to protect Daniel and then called to him to see if he was alive. Daniel was persecuted for his righteousness but vindicated by God. Darius called out at the top of the lion’s den in the trust that God would do something. Daniel’s response was “may the king live forever”. When we serve righteousness, God protects and secures us.

IV. Public Impact; **Dan 6:26-27**

- This one man’s faithfulness brought about a confession by the king that led the entire nation to see God lifted up. “I know that your God is the God...” Darius confessed that Daniel’s God would be forever. He wrote a decree commanding everyone to worship the true God.
 - He recognized that the kingdom of the God of Daniel would never end; though his own earthly dominion would end, Darius decreed that this God was to be worshiped.
 - Even though Israel was being judged and dispersed, God was doing something else – spreading his Kingdom. The people of

God, now dispersed, formed “teaching centers” – synagogues – that the people of the world can learn who God is. The decree of Darius made people ask of those who knew God about their God as they were among them.

- God always gets maximum effect from the circumstances He brings us into.
- We are called to be people with an extra ordinary spirit, whose attitude is right; to be “exemplary”. Daniel changed the entire world by his influence. His was such a quality of service that he became salt in the midst of corruption, leaven in the midst of a place where nothing was happening.