



"Daniel's Devotion, & Devotions" (Daniel 6)

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THE TEXT

* Daniel is between seventy and ninety “something” here in this story. He was about sixteen when taken captive into Babylon.

* When Darius comes into power, Daniel is the third highest ruler in the kingdom (see Daniel 5:29).

vv.1-4 Daniel's integrity

v.5 Daniel's testimony

* They have nothing to accuse Daniel of except in regard to his relationship with his God! If people were looking to accuse us, what would they be able to accuse us of?

vv.6-9 Evidently the choice of the means of capital punishment varied with people then just as it does in our day. Neb liked fire, Darius liked lions.

v.10 WOW!!! What a cool cucumber Daniel is here!!

- Why windows open toward Jerusalem? I Kings 8: 47 and if they have a change of heart in the land where they are held captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their conquerors and say, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, we have acted wickedly 48 and if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies who took them captive, and pray to you toward the land you gave their fathers, toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name; 49 then from heaven, your dwelling place, hear their prayer and their plea, and uphold their cause. 50 And forgive your people, who have sinned against you; forgive all the offenses they have committed against you, and cause their conquerors to show them mercy; II Chron.6: 20 May your eyes be open toward this temple day and night, this place of which you said you would put your Name there. May you hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place 21 Hear the supplications of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place; and when you hear, forgive...34 "When your people go to war against their enemies, wherever you send them, and when they pray to you toward this city you

have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name, 35 then hear from heaven their prayer and their plea, and uphold their cause; Muslims pray toward Mecca (airport prayer rooms, etc.)

vv.11-13 The plan progresses.

v.14 A distressed king with a determination to rescue Daniel.

v.15 No way out! This is a desperate situation. Ever been in a desperate situation?

- Desperate: Having an urgent need; moved by despair (overwhelmed with anxiety/hopelessness); very bad

vv.16-17 A sealed fate.

v.18 A Sominex evening for the king!

v.20 I believe there was a long pause before Daniel answered. I believe he was asleep. I believe he slept warm and comfortable...

v.21 Daniel is not bitter at the king!

v.24 The end of Daniel's enemies! These lions were hungry! This adds to the credibility of the story.

vv.25-27 Daniel's testimony spreads throughout the world!

LESSONS

- Daniel's willingness to face the lion's den brought glory to God.
- Note: this is the ultimate goal of our lives, to bring glory to God, and be a testimony for him. The personal challenge in this truth is that God might choose to deliver you from the lions in order to bring glory to Himself, and he might decide to allow me to let the lions tear me apart. Remember when Jesus revealed to Peter how he would ultimately glorify God in his death (John 21), and Peter asked Jesus what he had planned for John, Peter's associate in ministry. And what was the Lord's answer? "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." (John 21:22)
- Other Examples: Heb.11:35b-39a; John the Baptist beheaded, Peter delivered, Jeremiah delivered; they killed Zechariah between the altar and the sanctuary (Luke 11:51); Paul & his thorn in the flesh, Timothy's oft illnesses, Epaphras having almost died, etc.
- If Daniel had known ahead of time that God was going to deliver him from the lions, the lion's den would have been much easier to deal with.
- I would suggest that most of the time the emphasis in this story is placed on the great deliverance by God in saving Daniel from the lion's den. While that is indeed part of

the story, I have come to believe that the emphasis should not be placed so much on the deliverance of Daniel from the lions, but the devotion of Daniel in spite of the lions! I have come to see this story not so much as about a great deliverance as it is about a great devotion...

- Daniel's devotion to God in the face of a den of lions was the result of his devotions with God on a daily basis.
- He prayed "just as he had done before." He did not begin to pray fervently AFTER the crisis began. Most people's prayer lives intensify when crisis hits. Daniel's prayer life was fervent already. If our devotional lives are fervent before crisis moments in life, then we will face those crisis moments with much greater resolve, with much greater ability to endure, with much greater PEACE.
- Isa.26: 3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee; Phil.3:4-7.
- I need to develop a daily devotional time with the Lord when times are good, so that when times are bad, I do not become "unglued."
- Man is a few days and full of trouble (Job 14:1)
- Those who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution (II Tim.3:12).
- Details of Daniel's prayer:
 1. He Got down on his knees; a begging posture; a submissive posture; a reverent posture.
 - Ps.5: 7 But I, by your great mercy, will come into your house; in reverence will I bow down toward your holy temple.
 - Ps.95:1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. 3 For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; 7 for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.
 2. He gave thanks.
 - What in the world was he thanking God for in this situation?
 - I Thess.5: 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
 - Psalm 100: 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

- Rom.8:35-39

- Thankful if God chose to deliver him; thankful for the hope of heaven; thankful that God would be glorified through his life/death; thankful for years of faithfulness on his behalf.

3. He prayed three times a day.

- Read Psalm 55:17; I Thess.5:17

- Specific times alone with God in prayer helps one to keep an attitude of prayer 24/7.

4. He asked for help.

- He asked for help directly from his God; how easy it is to seek help from everywhere/everyone except God...

CONCLUSION

- Psalm 46:1
- Would you make a commitment to begin a daily devotional time with the Lord?
- Invite to pray, bow, ask God for help, give thanks...