

## Doing hard things well

### Daniel 6:1-28

- At the end of chapter six a governmental change occurs in Babylon, as ancient Babylon is no more for the Medes and Persians have taken the Kingdom away from them. God had raised them up for His purposes and now that they've accomplished what The Lord intended, He removes them from power just as He said in Daniel 2.
- **2:31-32** Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar that the Kingdom of Babylon would give way to another kingdom of silver representing the Medes-Persians. Daniel has lived to see this second phase of the dream happen some sixty years after he shared it.
- What is amazing that in **Is 45:1-4** two hundred years before this Isaiah prophesied that a man named Cyrus would conquer Babylon and pave the way for the Jews to return to Jerusalem. When The Medes-Persians came into the city he was handed the scroll of Isaiah showing that God would raise him up to send the Jews back to Israel so he decided to help rebuild Jerusalem because of this prophecy.

### V1-28

- **V1-3** Darius here is thought to be one of three possibilities > **1**. Another name for Cyrus, **2**. His son named Cambyses who served under him and later inherited the throne, **3**. A general named Gubaru who was born in **601 B.C.** and this takes place in **539 B.C.** making him sixty-two years old just as 5:31 says Darius is when he rules. Also the name Darius means "the one who holds the scepter", so it would make sense for it to be a title of the one who is in charge.
- Whenever there is a change in administration there will inevitably be reorganization, as the new ruler seeks to establish his authority and put people in place that he thinks are in line with his leadership goals. As with Nebuchadnezzar Daniel's Godliness and integrity stand out, so realizing that Daniel possessed "an excellent spirit" he promotes him to be one of the three administrators who would be over the one hundred and twenty rulers that he placed to govern the kingdom of Babylon.

- **V4-5** this caused the others to become jealous of Daniel, so a plot is hatched to discredit and get rid of him once and for all. The problem is unlike other men who were greedy, ambitious, thieves, because of his character they couldn't find anything to accuse him of that would stick. This shows accusations are going to come the question is are they true, and will they stick?
- So realizing they weren't going to trap him into evil, they seek to ensnare him because of his faith in God. People will observe you, watch you, and then set little traps just to see if you will compromise, but what they should find is that no matter what we will stay faithful to our God through obedience to His Word.
- Always remember this when the enemy is looking to accuse us he'll usually look in two areas of our lives > **1.** Your work- how do you conduct yourself around others, will they have to say are you sure you're a Christian? **2.** Your faith- how does what you believe cause you to live, is it a convenient faith that you pull out when it benefits you, and doesn't offend others, always looking for the Christian discount.
- **V6-9** they can't get him on his work so now they attack his faith, relying on Daniel to take a stand for righteousness, petitioning that no one can pray to or petition anyone but you for thirty days, and if their caught doing so then they will be thrown into the lions den as punishment. The enemy is cunning, slick, and he doesn't play fair, and if you choose to live Godly then you can count on one thing showing up "conflict".
- Why is that? Because unless your goal is to only glorify The Lord in everything you do and say, then your agenda will be to serve self, but when its to please The Lord then you only want to serve God, those are completely different agendas folks. So if I'm around family, at work, in church, and you put people around whatever a person's agenda is it is going to come out, and it is either to serve God, or to serve self.
- **V10-13** when Daniel heard that the petition was put into law, notice he didn't go and lobby against it, he didn't try and hide from it, he opens up his window for all to see and practices what he always does since he was a youth, pray and give thanks to God. This is how we respond to scheming, don't try and outsmart them, to fret and worry because of them, don't render evil for evil, simply recite the promises of God, trusting and praying knowing that He is in control amen!

- **V14-17** sometimes our faithfulness will land us in the lion's den, but don't fret, just as with the three Hebrew boys you are not there alone, God is there with you. Although the Darius was sad, and didn't want to do it he placed their law above the worship of The Lord, and so unlike Daniel he gets tricked by their scheme. But again, this shows that our trust, and deliverance doesn't come from man but from God.
- **V18-20** Darius spent a sleepless night knowing that he had been tricked into murdering a man of integrity out of jealousy from his co-workers. So, he doesn't do his usual routine to get some sleep instead he is fasting and hoping that somehow Daniel survives the night. This shows the testimony Daniel has with him.
- **V21-23** he rushes over to the lion's den and asks "has your God who you serve consistently able to save you from the lions"? This is a question that all Christians should be able to answer with a resounding yes. In fact, we should live in such a way that unbelievers are asking us this question, because of our faithfulness.
- If this was me it would have been a quick yes now get me out of here, but Daniel takes his time to be polite and give him a play by play of what happened. I would have said I'll tell you when you get me out of here quickly now. **Jn 1:1** refers to Jesus as "The Word or The Message" Angel here means Messenger; it's The Same One Who walked in the fire with Daniel friends in Chapter three.
- **V24-28 V24** use for our premarital classes that whoever you hook up with can either enhance your life or cost you your life, as this bad decision executed entire families. Darius issues a decree similar to the one Nebuchadnezzar gave in chapter three commanding the entire empire to show respect and honor to The God of Daniel and the Hebrews. You might start out with a night in the lion's den, but if you walk by faith it will end with a morning of glory and deliverance > **Lam 3:22-23, Eccl 7:8.**