

The Book of Daniel

Week 6

Darius the Mede is now the king over the kingdom and has recruited leaders to maintain his territory. Daniel finds himself again in a position of power and authority in the kingdom and a friendship is growing between him and King Darius. The kingdom is expanded, Daniel's honor is growing, jealousy is rising and the time has come for God to again demonstrate that he alone is the Sovereign ruler over all of it.

1. King Darius's Leadership

- a. Satrap = Protector of the Kingdom (120 of them)
- b. 3 Presidents put in place to lead the satraps
- c. This organization was set-up so the king didn't suffer loss of territory & taxes.

Problem/Plot: Darius considers elevating Daniel's position to the head of all the kingdom and jealousy ripples through the other leaders, so they start to find a way to bring him down. But Daniel is found to be honest, trustworthy and reliable. Interestingly this is the exact reason that Jesus, Himself, was executed by the Jews.

2. Daniel's Trap

- a. Attempt to trap Daniel in respect of private religious observances which, if performed without proper state authority were indictable offenses and punishable by the laws of the land. (death in a Lions Den).
- b. First they need to make a law that makes Daniel's worship illegal.
- c. Then expose that Daniel's true allegiance is to his God and not the kingdom.

3. Daniel Arrested

- a. Daniel hears the law has been signed and maintains his daily discipline of prayer.
- b. Other rulers wait/spy on Daniel and then accuse him.

I love how Daniel knows but he still prays. This is such a powerful moment to see what true dependence looks like. Daniel doesn't worry, think, talk about it or challenge it but he does what he always does... He Prays. This is the foundation of his life and he will not abandon God even if it means his own death. He would rather pray than live.

4. King Darius's response

- a. Greatly Distressed and tries to deliver Daniel but is unable to do so. Darius does not have the control, or the power, to do what he wants to do and through this situation that God will show Darius who is truly Sovereign and in control. Darius is a mess!

5. Daniel in the Lion's Den

- a. God sent angel to shut the mouths of the lions.
- b. King Darius comes early and then has an amazing confession when Daniel is found alive.

c. God is a God of deliverance and was with him even in the midst of the trial.