

- I) **V1-3 INTRO: It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps to be over the whole**
- II) **We are now introduced to the 2nd Kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar's dream: Medo-Persia**
- III) **In Ch 2, the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar had had a dream
As we saw Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a great image
It had a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze and legs of iron with feet that were a mixture of iron and clay**
- IV) **Daniel had told the King that he was the head of gold
This represented the Babylonian empire, the greatest in the ancient world**
- V) **Daniel made it clear that the empire of Babylon was temporary and would be replaced
Dan 2:39 After you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours**
- VI) **In Nebuchadnezzar's image the kingdom was portrayed as the chest and arms of silver
It is this kingdom that we see in Dan 6: the Medes and Persians
Cyrus had defeated the Medes and the kingdom was called the Medo Persian empire**
- VII) **In our last study we were introduced to Darius the Mede
History records that Cyrus the Persian installed Darius as a sub-governor of Babylon**
- VIII) **Here we see Darius re-ordering the Babylonian government**
- IX) **V2 He established 3 governors to oversee 120 satraps (government officials)**
- X) **These satraps were provincial leaders
They owned and administered the land in their provinces, always in the king's name. They served as the chief judge for their region, adjudicating disputes and decreeing the punishments for various crimes. Satraps also collected taxes, appointed and removed local officials, and policed the roads and public spaces.**
- XI) **To prevent the satraps from exercising too much power and possibly even challenging the king's authority, each satrap answered to a royal secretary, known as the "eye of the king."
This would have been the office that Daniel held**
- XII) **Once again Daniel is placed in a position of authority: he was the chief of the**

governors

Ps 75:6-7 Exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one and exalts another.

XIII) V3 Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps because an excellent

I) He is now nearing 90 years of age, and yet is still distinguishing himself above others

Ps 92:12-14 But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. For they are transplanted to the LORD's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green. They will declare, "The LORD is just! He is my rock! There is no evil in him!"

**II) The honor Daniel receives is not automatic, simply the result of growing old
It is because he has sought the Lord throughout his lifetime**

Ps 71:5-6 For you have been my hope, Lord, my confidence since my youth. From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you.

III) As one grows older, it is easy to begin to think that their days of usefulness are over

**This is one of the lies that our society feeds on
Job 12:12 Wisdom belongs to the aged, and with length of days, understanding**

IV) As we age in the things of the Lord we have much more to give of the Lord, to others

Ps 71:17-18 O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works. Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.

**V) Daniel had spent a lifetime in a disciplined pursuit of the Lord
The fruit of this was that God entrusted him with godly influence
Pr 22:29 Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.**

VI) Honor comes because of the quality of your life, not because you have been placed there

**The position you hold may be respected but you yourself disrespected
We can often honor the office and not the person holding it**

VII) On the other hand, when you have integrity people in authority may recognize it

As the do, they may place you in a position of honor
Pr 3:3-4 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.

VIII) Daniel distinguished himself through the Spirit in his life and his discipline of godliness

1Ti 4:7 But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

His character was obvious, and placed him in the highest position

IX) V4-5 So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning

Not everybody rejoices when the honorable rule

There are many who prefer wicked rulers because they themselves are wicked

I) Under normal circumstances, a good official can be valued and desired

This is because their leadership is a blessing and benefit to the people

Pr 29:2 when the righteous are in authority the people rejoice but when the wicked are in power the people mourn

II) In this case, the officials did not like the fact that a foreigner wielded such authority

In order to remove him, they had to devise a plan

III) Their problem was that they could find no charge against him

IV) V4 He was faithful, without error and without fault in his business dealings:
He was trustworthy, did not neglect his duty and was not corrupt! An unusual politician

V) **REMEMBER ONE THING:** Integrity will *always* have its detractors

VI) Daniel had integrity and his integrity of heart guided his daily affairs

He was uncorrupted by the world's standards because he had a higher standard for life

VII) He was in a daily pursuit of the Lord

Ps 63:1 O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.

VIII) V5 Then these men said *We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it*

The only way they could attack him was over his life of service to His God

IX) These men were more than likely much younger than Daniel and desired advancement

Daniel blocked their desires for career advancement: He was too religious!

X) The problem was this old warrior was too good to find fault with

What can they do to eliminate him? Use the Law to get to him

They created a conflict between secular law and Daniel's keeping of God's law

XI) V6-9 So these governors and satraps thronged before the king and said to him thus King

It appears they all were there, presenting their plan to the king

It appears that their request was that they could not pray to a god, but only bring their requests to him: He would then be regarded as the mediator to their god in that only he could pray for the month

XII) This was intended to honor him and to flatter him, recognizing in him divine powers

Pr 29:5 A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

History reveals that Persian kings made claims of deity, so this was acceptable to him

I) V10-11 Now when *Daniel knew* that the writing was signed he went home. And in his

Daniel knew that this law had been written up and made effective

Though he knew that it was now law, he determined to continue serving God

II) Here we find the secret of Daniel's faith

He was disciplined in the Word of God and Prayer, revealing his *dependence on God*

III) From his youth he had been accustomed to praying three times a day

Ps 55:16-17 As for me, I will call upon God, and the LORD shall save me. *Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice.*

IV) He fully understood what would happen, but he still took time to pray

No matter the penalties, nothing replaced his devotion to God

V) He undoubtedly knew Jeremiah's words of promise

Jer 29:11-13 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me

and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

VI) What gave Daniel the ability to put his life on the line like this
A lifetime of seeking God

VII) Spiritual maturity is not instantaneous, but develops over time
V9 As was his custom *since early days*

VIII) Daniel yielded to someone greater than the government: his trust was in God
Is 46:4 Even to your old age, I will be the same, and I will bear you up
when you turn gray. I have made you, and I will carry you; I will sustain you and
deliver you.

IX) He put his trust in the Lord and knew the One he was to obey
Ac 5:29 Peter and the other apostles answered and said: We ought to
obey God rather than men.

X) Daniel decided to honor God even if it cost him his life
Telemachus was a Christian who was stoned to death in Rome when he
tried to stop a contest between gladiators in the arena. He entered the stadium while
the games were in progress and, going down into the arena attempted to separate the
combatants, crying out In the Name of Christ, stop! The spectators were infuriated,
and they stoned to death this messenger of peace. His death, according to
Theodoret, a Syrian Bishop (393-466), caused the Emperor Honorius (384-423 AD) to
abolish gladiatorial contests.

I) Under Persian law, once enacted it could not be changed
Esther 1:19 says the laws of Persia and Media...cannot be repealed
Esther 8:8 whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the
king's signet ring can be revoked

II) V12-14 And they went before the king and spoke concerning the king's decree
O king, Daniel is flaunting the law and rejecting not only the law, but you

III) What kind of man is this that you are trusting who so easily disrespects your
authority

Darius could do nothing, as Persian law was binding

IV) Darius was not angry, like Nebuchadnezzar had been towards Daniel's friends
Instead he got angry at himself and tried to find a loophole, to set Daniel
free

This effort was fruitless, and Daniel's enemies would not relent

V) V16 So the king gave the command and they brought Daniel and cast him into
the den

He could not alter the order, so he fulfills the law's demand: Execution

VI) Your God will deliver you can be translated Your God *must* save you
I have tried to save you and have failed: now your God must save you
Ps 68:20 God is a God of deliverances; and to God the Lord belong
escapes from death

VII) You have served Him continually, surely He will deliver you
Undoubtedly he had heard of how God had delivered Daniel's three
friends
Surely the same God would save Daniel

VIII) V17 Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den and the king
sealed it

IX) LION'S DEN: A large square cavern under the earth, having a partition wall in
the middle of it, furnished with a door, which the keeper can open and close from
above. By throwing in food, they can entice the lions from one chamber into the
other, and then, having shut the door, they enter the vacant space for the purpose of
cleaning it. The cavern is open above, its mouth being surrounded by a wall of a yard
and a half high, over which one can look down into the den.

X) V18 Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting and no
musicians were
He stayed awake all night and was very upset
He did not have the usual diversions: a banquet, music to entertain him

XI) V19-20 Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the
den of lions
He was genuinely upset, grieving and mourning over the death of this
gentle man

I) V20 Daniel servant of the living God has your God whom you serve continually
been able
It is dark and he is unable to see Daniel and would expect silence and
the smell of death

II) On one hand, he thought that it might be possible
On the other, the voice betrayed his sorrow and grief
Of course, Daniel would be dead

III) V21-22 The Daniel said to the king O king live forever My God sent His angel
Daniel calmly and cheerily answers the king

IV) V22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they have not
hurt me
The same one who delivered his friends has delivered him, also
Ps 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,

and he delivers them.

V) God protected Daniel, and Daniel gave Him the glory

Ps 91:14-15 Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.

VI) V23 Because he believed in his God

In front of the unbelievers, Daniel gives praise to God and it is a witness to them

Heb 11:32-33 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouth of lions

VII) Daniel was a man of no compromise

Even in the faith of death, he was unwilling to hide his faith

Mt 10:32-33 Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

VIII) I received a message from a friend

We have 22 underground pastors in Afghanistan and only two have been able to escape. The Taliban overran the country so quickly and now they are trapped. Most do not expect to survive...we are trying to find a way to rescue them, but it looks impossible

Another wrote The Taliban is going door to door and they do not believe they will survive the next couple of days

It has been reported that 229 Christian missionaries are scheduled to be executed

I) May God deliver them

Ps 140:1-2 Rescue me, O LORD, from evil men. Protect me from men of violence, who devise evil in their hearts and stir up war all day long.

II) V24 And the king gave the command and they brought those men who had accused

III) He celebrates by executing the entire family *of those who brought the accusation*

This is recorded as an act of divine justice, as an eye for an eye

IV) This was not the three governors plus the 120 and their wives

Pr 11:8 The righteous is delivered from trouble, And it comes to the wicked instead.

Ps 54:4-5 Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is with those who uphold my life. He will repay my enemies for their evil.

V) V25-27 Then King Darius wrote To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the

God is great and worship Him! Not without the Holy Spirit's conviction!

VI) V28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian

This gave Daniel further opportunity to serve God and to bless his people