



Courage for a world that challenges our faith

MEN'S MORNING STUDY

BRAVE *by* FAITH

A STUDY OF DANIEL 1-7

THURSDAYS, JUNE 4-AUG 6 @ 6:30-7:30A
THE LOOP CAMPUS (GARDEN RM)
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BAPTIST CHURCH



Seek First the Kingdom of God

Daniel 6:1-28.

M. Dixon

Daniel Distinguished, vv. 1-4

Daniel Despised, vv. 5-9, 13

Daniel Disciplined, vv. 10-17

Daniel Delivered, vv. 18-28

Table Reflection

1. Would it make any substantial difference in your life, individually or corporately if prayers were to be banned for the next 30 days, and the punishment – death?
2. Are there "kingdoms" in your life that compete for the place of the Kingdom of God?

SEEK FIRST

T H E K I N G D O M O F G O D

Daniel 6:1-28

Martin Dixon



Reflection

Would it make any substantial difference in our lives, individually or corporately if prayer were to be banned for the next 30 days, and the punishment – death?





A Changing Nation

- In the last 25 yrs.
 1. Seen a significant change in Christians' mentality
 2. Brought by wind of change: cultural, political, ideological, theological, immigration, racial, secularism
 3. Consequently, we feel like we in the minority; our views no longer considered; losing control; feeling like an outsider
 4. Don't like it, not used to it; bewildered, angry, defensive, defeated
- Challenge: How do Christians **live** in a society that does not like what they **believe**, what they **say** and how they **live**?
- How do you live in this "new" normal?
- Enters the book of Daniel

Book of Daniel

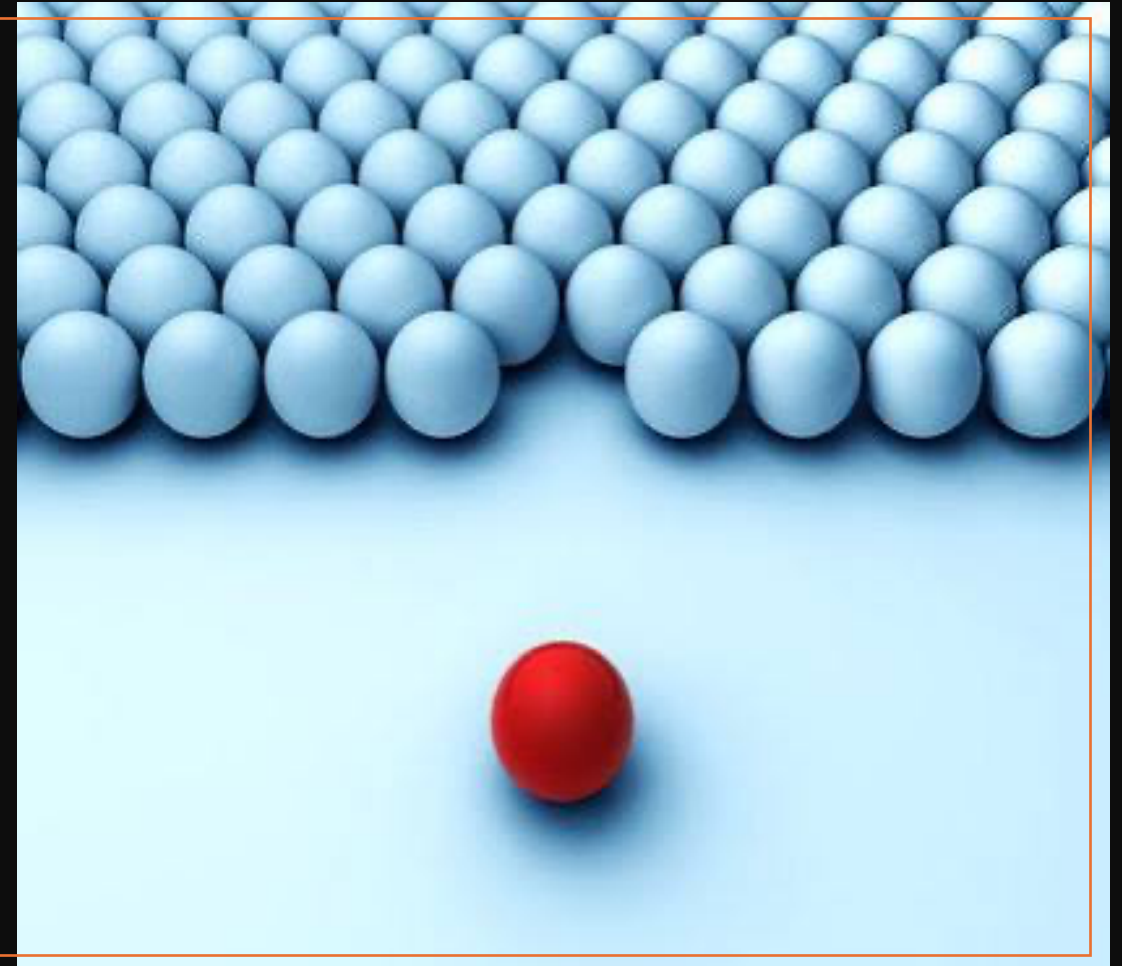
- Book not about how to be like Daniel
 1. It calls us to believe in the God of Daniel (of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob)
 2. Calls us to entirely trust the sovereign and all-powerful God of Daniel even in the face of prevailing circumstances.
- Daniel and friends were taken to Babylon in 605 BC from everything they know (**temple, sacrifice, liturgy**) to everything they do not know (**Psa. 137:1**).
- But Daniel prays, worships, draws the line in the sand to choose the kingdom of God (**loyalty to God**) over the kingdom of men (**obedience to the state**).

Book of Daniel

- Daniel's commitment in chapter 1 brings to the greatest test of his life in chapter 6.
- I called it the Margaret Thatcher commitment: "You may turn all you want but this lady is not for turning."
 - a) You may turn all you want because your kingdom aligns with your Christian belief;
 - b) Or because your kingdom gives you wins in your fight – But this Daniel's is not for turning
 - c) Why? The God of the Kingdom of Heaven remains sovereign in face of any prevailing circumstances
- Daniel's choice & commitment brings us to chapter 6

Daniel was Distinguished, vv. 1-4

- Context:
 1. Biggest Medo Empire world has ever seen
 2. King appointed satraps and 3 governors (of whom Daniel was one directly under king).
 3. Reason – that king will not lose territory and taxation
- Elevation:
 1. In line for promoted because of **excellent spirit** – good attitude in work and life, impervious to corruption
 2. Daniel became a target because the others will not get the promotion





Daniel was Despised, vv. 5-9, 13

- Not because of his work, character
- But because he is an **exile from Judah**
 1. They were demeaning Daniel
 2. That Daniel can't get the top job because he is a 2nd class citizen; part of an inferior race
- Drafted a petition to have king sign it.
- **Question:** What possible right does a government have to make arbitrary laws?
 1. In opposing it Daniel was not protesting his right to pray to his God
 2. But protesting the view of the government that there is a Higher **LAW** from which inalienable human rights derive.
 3. When governments make arbitrary laws, refusing to recognize they are under the Law Giver then every culture is in danger.
- Arbitrary laws written by the Pharisees to Jesus to the cross (**John 19:7**)

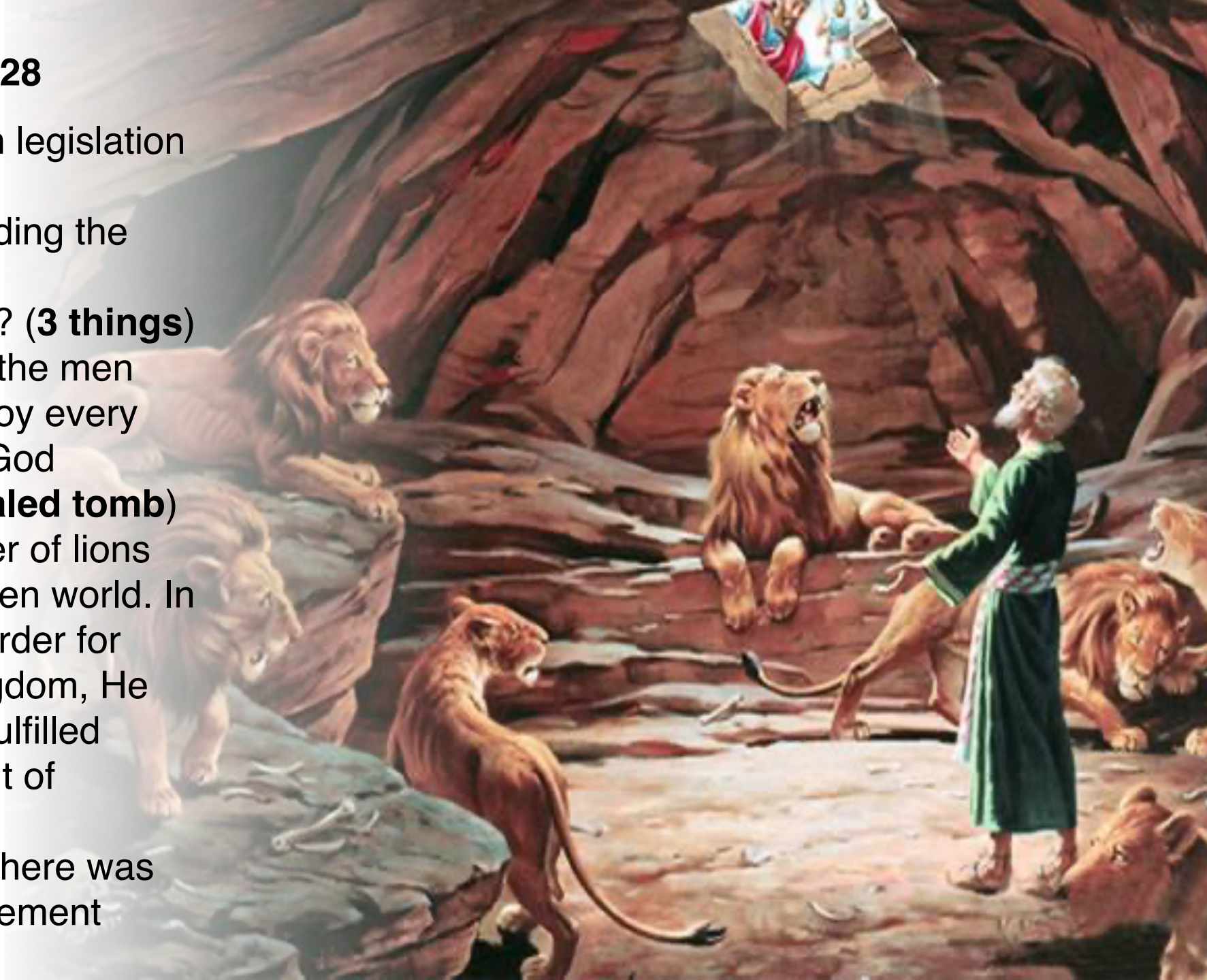


Daniel was in his personal life Disciplined, vv. 10-17

- What possibility is there of the authority coming and catch HFBC at prayer?
- Daniel didn't organize his prayer meeting to protest or rebel. It was his way of life, vv. 10, 13
- **Implication:** He regards his commitment to the Kingdom of God of such important that obedience to this man-made edit was unacceptable.
- The authority came and caught Daniel as expected, v. 11. Invaded his privacy
- Crisis did not create Daniel's disciplined lifestyle but rather reveals it.
- Daniel prayed in spite of that God will be glorified, not for gratification

Daniel Delivered, vv. 18-28

- King is trapped by his own legislation
 1. Could not eat, sleep
 2. Nobody was eating, including the lions.
- What is the text telling us? (**3 things**)
 1. In seeking to kill Daniel, the men were attempting to destroy every trace of the kingdom of God (**Similar to another sealed tomb**)
 2. Destructive instinct/power of lions are metaphors of our fallen world. In the moment of crisis in order for God to preserve His kingdom, He brings Isaiah 11, God's fulfilled kingdom into the moment of adversity.
 3. In Daniel's deliverance, there was destruction – God's judgement





- Challenge: How do Christians **live** in a society that does not like what they **believe**, what they **say** and how they **live**?
- How do you live in this “new” normal?
- Answer from Daniel 6
 1. Seek **first, and only** the Kingdom of God
 2. God will give you the power of His fulfilled Kingdom to live in this fallen world/society.

Reflection

1. Would it make any substantial difference in your life, individually or corporately if prayers were to be banned for the next 30 days, and the punishment – death?
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