

In the Fire Part 7

Daniel 6

1 It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, **2** with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. **3** Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. **4** At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. **5** Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

6 So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! **7** The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. **8** Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” **9** So King Darius put the decree in writing.

- By the time we get to Daniel 6, Daniel speaks of the 3rd King that he is serving under since being exiled to Babylon.
- At this point, Daniel has risen to the place of serving as one of three great leaders.

Vs. 3 NKJV

Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him;

The NIV translates - exceptional qualities

The NKJV translates - an excellent spirit

Excellent: *Hebrew* - *yatir*; surpassing, extreme, extraordinary

- I believe this same promise is available for every born again believer...

Ephesians 3:20 NKJV

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Vs. 4

At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so.

“Sometimes today a candidate or nominee for political office is set under this kind of scrutiny, but imagine looking as hard as you can at a public servant in office some 50 years and finding nothing wrong. No fraudulent expense accounts. No intern scandals. No questionable business deals. No gifts from lobbyists. No accusations from his staff.”

David Guzik

- Daniel was that kind of a man; so trustworthy that those men who looked for a flaw in his actions or his character came up empty.
- Some might say: Because “they could find no corruption in him...” this made Daniel the object of attack...
- But I would remind you the reason Daniel became the object of attack wasn't because he was a good guy, but because of greed and power..

Vs. 3,4

Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. **4** At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel

It wasn't because of his excellent spirit and character...

It was because in his excellent spirit and good character he was being promoted...

- There are times when God begins to exalt a person, then in others, envy and greed become the leading cause of corruption...

James 3:16

For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Vs. 10-21

10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. **11** Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. **12** So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?"

The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

13 Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day." **14** When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

15 Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.”

16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. **18** Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

Vs. 10

Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

- Daniel remained unmoved in his Devotion and Thankfulness to God...
- Understanding this act could cost him his life, he turns towards Jerusalem; the place of sacrifice...

Vs. 11,12

Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree:

- The devil will make every effort to form laws that are contrary to and contradict God’s...
- What is God’s 1st and Greatest Commandment?

Matthew 22:37-39

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment.

39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

- The devil is in fact the author of lawlessness... or the doing away with what God has established... the doing away of law and order...
- He will only form law that benefit his agenda and gives no regard to what is upright and good...
- **The devil’s law says**; stop praying, stop worshipping, stop loving God and plot the undermining and destruction of your neighbor.

2 Thessalonians 2

1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him..

Vs. 3

Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

Vs. 7

For the secret power of **lawlessness** is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

Vs. 8

And then the **lawless** one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

Vs. 9

The coming of the **lawless** one will be in accordance with how Satan works.

Vs. 16,17

16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed.

The sentence placed upon Daniel is an OT parallel to the Cross...

- Darius, like Pilot; disturbed and reluctant, carries out a death sentence on an innocent man...
- Darius, like Pilot's wife is restless in the night with the idea of innocent blood being shed...
- The lions den is sealed off with a stone and signet ring, much like the stone at the tomb where Jesus was buried, with soldiers in place to assure it stays sealed...
- But like with Jesus, if God is working, there is no stone big enough...
- There is no army big enough...
- There is no lion hungry enough...
- Satan with every desperate ploy works tirelessly for triumph over God; but the Devil loses again...

Vs. 19-28

19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. **20** When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

21 Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! **22** My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me,

because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. **(Parallel to Ch. 3 - The Fiery Furnace)**

24 At the king’s command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions’ den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

25 Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth:

“May you prosper greatly!

26 “I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

“For he is the living God
and he endures forever;
his kingdom will not be destroyed,
his dominion will never end.

27

He rescues and he saves;
he performs signs and wonders
in the heavens and on the earth.

He has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions.”

28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

As Christians our attention is and should always be on the Lord...

Our desire is to please our Heavenly Father, Jesus our Savior and the Holy Spirit who abides with us...

We are focused on Worshiping Him... Loving Him... Obeying Him... Honoring Him... Following Him... as we should

But in doing so the Bible tells us we are more the conquerors...

The Bible speaks of this kind of Victory...

Psalm 20

5 May we shout for joy over your **victory** and lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the Lord grant all your requests.

6 Now this I know: The Lord gives **victory** to his anointed. He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of his right hand.

Psalm 44

6 I put no trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me **victory**;

7 but you give us **victory** over our enemies, you put our adversaries to shame.

Psalm 149:4

For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with **victory**.

Matthew 12:20

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to **victory**.

1 Corinthians 15

54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

55

“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 John 5:4

for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the **victory** that has overcome the world, even our faith.

Closing Song: