

Daniel 6 –17 July 2025

“Conviction Or Fiction?”

Introduction

*Book’s Outline: 2 halves (historical chronology chap 1-6 & a is more detailed prophetic visions chap 7-12)

*Chap 1 – Believer in an unbelieving world

*Chap 2 – All world empires ended by the Kingdom

*Chap 3 – Believer raptured while Israel goes thru the Tribulation

*Chap 4 – King of Babylon as Satan is bound

*Chap 5 – Earth’s ruler gathers for a last battle but is overthrow

*Chap 6 – New world-ruling kingdom w/ unchanging laws is established

*Dan 6 is yet another example of the Godly standing up for their convictions

*If our convictions are never put to the test, do we even know if they’re real...or maybe it’s plain fiction

Today, we’ll see 4 ways that we can know that we’ve committed our lives to God’s glory

#1 – We know we’re committed b/c we bring the Lord into religious AND secular affairs (Vs 1-4)

Read Vs 1-3

1. Now who is this Darius?
 - a. Mostly likely he’s who history calls Gubaru; known as the 1st leader under Cyrus
 - b. Darius is probably just a title like Caesar
 - c. There are men secular history didn’t write of, yet they’re important to the Biblical record
2. Notice 120 princes and 3 presidents
 - a. 12 is consistently the # of government
 - b. 3 is consistently the number of divinity
 - c. So we already begin to see pictures of a divine govt God will establish in the end days
3. Dan *distinguished himself by his excellent spirit*
 - a. He’s in 80s but hasn’t *retired* from God’s work
4. We want to grow in favor w/ God AND man
 - a. Our Lord did it (Read Luk 2:52)
 - b. How do we do this? (Read Prov 3:3-4)
5. Daniel was doing secular work, for a secular govt & yet he never forsook his higher service

Read Vs 4

1. There was no divide between Daniel's secular work character & his ministry life character
 - a. He has excellent character everywhere
 - b. Live above reproach
 - i. Read I Tim 3:2 & I Thes 5:22
2. Yet even w/ this lifestyle, some people still hated him
 - a. Someone will always be angered by you
 - b. Let it be b/c you're standing for the Lord

#2 – We know we're committed b/c we know how to choose between conflicting priorities (Vs 5-9)

Read Vs 5

1. If they can't get you to sin against your God or man, then they'll emphasize situations in which God and man disagrees
 - a. Exp: Paying taxes (Read Luk 20:22-25)
2. I believe Satan loves to schedule sporting events on Sundays

Read Vs 6-7

1. So the specific conflict is created intentionally
 - a. Everyone can only pray to the King
2. How they likely sold this to Darius; “it’s not about praising other gods; it’s about giving you attention”
 - a. They didn’t care about worshipping Darius, yet they likely sold it to him that way
 - b. Disingenuous, used him as a pawn

Read Vs 8-9

1. Medo-Persian Law can’t change
2. Remember this was exercised in Est 8:5,8
 - a. Haman asked the king to allow for *a people* to be destroyed – for he wanted all Jews killed
 - b. Yet when the plot was foiled, they couldn’t reverse the law – he had to create a new law
 - i. A new law allowing the Jews self-defense
3. This unchanging law is a foreshadowing of the everlasting state after the Millennial Kingdom

#3 – We know we’re committed b/c we’ve grown accustomed to a routine that could cost (Vs 10-15)

Read Vs 10-11

1. Just as Peter & John at the Temple, Daniel did this knowingly, but not cocky
2. Do we have spiritual routines, or do we fit them into our schedule when it’s convenient?
 - a. Do we read our Bible, but only if there’s time
 - b. Do we give money, but only if there’s extra
 - c. Do we talk to unbelievers about our good God, or only when they approach us
3. A conviction is a priority that cannot be broken
 - a. Story: Man asked a woman, ‘would you sleep w/ me for \$1 mil’, to which she replied, ‘well I suppose I would’. Then the man asked, ‘would you do I for \$5’, to which she replied, ‘certainly not, what do you take me for’. The man answered, ‘we’ve already established what you are, we’re just negotiating the price’.

- b. If our commitment to Christ can be broken,
at the right price, then it's no commitment at all
- 4. Daniel based his life around his time w/ God;
he didn't base his time w/ God around his life

Read Vs 12-14

- 1. Darius sought to deliver Daniel, but couldn't
 - a. Speaks of his great relationship w/ the king
 - b. Speaks of the law being firm & unchanging

Read Vs 15

- 1. King was trapped by his own prideful words
 - a. Herod had John killed, but didn't want to
- 2. Pride can make us go places we didn't intend
to go
 - a. Pride can give you a child when all you
wanted was some 'love & affection'
 - b. Pride can give you a broken bone, when all
you wanted was to show someone you could
lift those weights

#4 – We know we're committed b/c we can handle the emotional upheaval the flesh produces (Vs 16-23)

Read Vs 16-18

1. Darius had legitimate care for Daniel but no way to fix it
 - a. There is power but never ultimate power
2. Darius wasn't just king, but he was servant to the kingship – had to obey the rules
 - a. We will always be servants to someone
 - b. Christians chose the best Someone (Jesus)

Read Vs 19-23

1. He declares his innocence before God AND that he did the king no harm
 - a. To have indulged the king in worship, would have done him harm
 - b. When we don't play into other's sins & fantasies, we're actually helping them, whether they believe it or not
 - i. Speak the truth in love

Bonus – Now have you noticed a prototype of Jesus? (Vs 23-24)

1. A picture of the everlasting state wouldn't be complete w/o a prototype of the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus!
 - a. Vs 10 – Knowing the plot, he went to pray
 - b. Vs 17 – Den covered by a stone
 - c. Vs 17 – Den was sealed by the ruler's seal
 - d. Vs 19 – Allies came early in morning
 - e. Vs 22 – Angels were involved
 - f. Vs 23 – Innocent one walks out unharmed
 - g. Vs 23 – Happened b/c they trusted in God

Read Vs 24

1. Proves that there was a real enemy
2. This was Persian law that “*on account of the guilt of one, all the kindred perish*” (Herodotus)
 - a. Shows the complete destruction of all sin
3. This completes the picture of the cross with sin being atoned for by blood

Results from the affliction of our conviction

Read Vs 25-28

1. As we've seen in each chapter of Daniel; when we stand for our convictions, even at a potentially great cost, the result in praise & glory to God!
2. Our God *lives forever*
3. Our God *saves and delivers*

Conclusion

So how do we truly know if our love for Christ is conviction or fiction?

1. **Do we bring the Lord into religious AND secular affairs?** – all parts of life
2. **Do we know how to choose between conflicting priorities?** – chose best not good
3. **Have we grown accustomed to a routine that costs something from time to time?**
4. **Can we handle the emotional upheaval that the flesh produces?** – don't focus on enemies