

DANIEL

Chapter 6 -Notes

Summary

- Chapter 6 serves as a kind of conclusion to the narrative story of Daniel. In it, we have a new episode following the story of a new king, but in many ways, treading the same familiar ground. Darius the Mede appoints a multitude of new noble rulers to help him preside over his newly acquired empire, consisting of Persia, Media, and Babylon. Daniel is made a ruler of rulers. Soon after, a group of conspiring governors seek to do harm against both Darius and Daniel. They trick him into passing a law that no one may “seek” after any other man or god besides Darius for 30 days. Daniel continues seeking after Yahweh, is reported to Darius, and the king is forced to have Daniel cast into the lion’s den. Nevertheless, an angel of the Lord delivers Daniel from the lions and the conspirators are subsequently eaten by the lions themselves.

Purpose in Writing

- This narrative brings God’s lessons to the gentile kings and nations to a close. Up till now, God has taught the gentiles that He is the ultimate source of power, wisdom, and goodness. The God of the Jews has ultimate authority to dictate and bring to pass all that He wills. Apparently, Darius understands this to some degree. Now, in chapter six, he will come to learn that the law of God is superior to the law of men, and all good men would do well to obey God rather than man. Moreover, we see in the testimony of Daniel the final lesson that through the humble suffering of God’s innocent people, the nations are delivered. All of this of course points us forward to the works of Christ, who will be

wrongly accused, condemned, buried, yet delivered, all that he might come to rule on God's behalf.

The Nature of Wicked Men

- In this text we may highlight common practices of the wicked. First, we note that there is a contingent of governors who do not worship the God of the Bible. Thus, we observe that in comparison to Daniel, these men are deficient in wisdom and ability to rule.
- This, in part, leads to their jealous bitterness toward Daniel. They hate Daniel because of his commitment to his God, and the blessings he therefore possesses in Him. Therefore all of God's people may note, that those who despise God can, will, and do despise you. We ought to be weary and alert to their threat.
- Second, we may observe the means by which they go after Daniel. It is conspiratorial in nature, not unlike how the leaders of Jesus' day went after him. The enemies of God are a shrewd and crafty people, and we ought to be sober minded in expecting that they will collaborate together in seeking to undo us.
- Finally, we may observe that though they may experience temporary success, this is only to serve to further their condemnation. God will execute judgement and hold such men to account.

Daniel's Lessons

- When Daniel is faced with unjust and unbiblical laws, he chooses to obey God, rather than men. He does not reason that his position of power and authority is too great to give up, but commits to the continued faithful seeking of his God.

- This decision leads directly to his suffering. Nevertheless, through this he is delivered, glorified, and Darius himself benefits, as his wise man is restored to him and his kingdom. This is God's pattern. The servants of God are to suffer for the sake of their God, and this suffering leads to life and deliverance.

Darius' Lessons

- Thinking through Darius' story, we observe that men who rule in acknowledgement of God and His power are not enough. It's not enough for believers in positions of authority to merely identify with or confess Yahweh as their God. They must also rule justly, according to God's word. They must not fear man, but God. They must make no laws contrary to God's own, but seek to mirror Christ and His holy and perfect rule, as best they can. We ought to expect our rulers to claim Christ, and make just laws.

Christ in the Text

- We have in this text a great deal of explicit Christological typology in the person of Daniel:
 - Daniel is a wise man fit to rule.
 - He is a great man of prayer.
 - He is hated by rival leaders.
 - His enemies conspire against him and collude to falsely accuse him.
 - He is brought before a reluctant ruler (Darius/Pilate) to be tried and wrongly condemned.
 - He is cast into a pit to die, which is covered with a stone and sealed.
 - He is delivered from the pit and death to be raised to power and prominence.

- The accusers are condemned and executed.