

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 6 TITLE: "Re-tell: Daniel"

Intro: *Living in Exile.* Strangers in foreign land. Under oppression & opposition. Daniel has royal blood. He's a prince in Israel. Earned respect of 3 foreign Kings! **Daniel** = "God is my judge." Daniel's name literally means: "**Only God can judge me.**"

Main Themes of Daniel: (REPEAT AT END FOR CONCLUSION!)

1. God's Sovereignty over creation, creatures, kings and kingdoms.
2. How God's people can live as exiles in a pagan world under pagan rule.
3. Serve, live and follow world leaders and culture to the point of compromising principles.
4. God's kingdom is an eternal kingdom that will never fail or pass away.
5. Prayer is our primary weapon against persecution, hardship and our source for faith.
6. B/c God always keeps His promises. So we can live and trust Him through any situation.

Thesis: "*We don't have to dare to be like Daniel, b/c Jesus was better than Daniel for us.*"

I. Living in Exile

- A. **Daniel believed God's promise** that the people would return & have freedom & home.
- B. **Daniel was above reproach** and thought well of by those in the society. Kings. Others.
- C. **Daniel still had enemies.** Will inevitably happen to those who are faithful. Enemies will be jealous of your respect. Guilty conscience will cause them to hate your character.
- D. **Jeremiah 29:4-14*. And 1 Kings 8:33-34.** How to live in exile. Pray. Practicals?
- E. Tipping well. Serving your neighbor (trash can, mail, dog, etc.). Work hard. No dirt.

ILLUSTRATION: Factory Workers. Both Christian. 1 Tim. 3:1-7.

- F. Daniel was a man of regular prayer. 3x daily. He scheduled & had routine b/c it's needed.

APPLICATION: 1) Jesus was a stranger and treated like a stranger. He was faithful to God.
2) We're living and strangers and exiles. Sojourners. **This is not our home.** Why do we put so much stock on how things work here? Wealth. Stuff? Status? Health? **Homesick? Pray?**

II. Rescued from Destruction by Faith

- A. **Daniel already been praying** for Help. Out-loud. Knew what was coming. He knew. Daniel prayed & worship God when the government told him not to. Wasn't rebellion.
- B. **Daniel slept better** in the Lions Den than Darius had in his palace of luxury.
- C. **Daniel was saved by faith. Hebrews 11:33.** "*stopped the mouths of lions.*"
- D. **Daniel was saved by Jesus.** "My God sent His Angel." v.22 *He shut the mouths.*

APPLICATION: 1) We're gonna be saved from destruction by faith too. *Daniel was delivered from death because he was blameless. Jesus was delivered from death because he was blameless. We will be delivered from death because we will be found blameless in Christ.*
2) Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:25. Heaven will be only peace. No death. Violence. Gore. Turmoil. Fights. Oppression. Injustice. Tension. Debates. Voting. Campaigning. Runoffs. Division. Restlessness.
3) Doesn't mean won't face hardship. Believers die. Killed & tortured. Some killed by lions.

III. God will receive glory through Jesus

- A. **For his justice.** Isaiah 66. Rev. 14:6-7 & Rev. 19.
- B. **For his deliverance.** "Lamb who was slain!" Purchased! Ransomed! Saved! Angels are amazed! *1 Peter 1:3-12*. Angels long to see this happen! Worship! Luke 2:8-14.
- C. **From all nations.** v25-27. Darius saw reality. **Gospel Preacher.** Command worship. Nations will hear and worship God. All languages and cultures and peoples. **VISION!**

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1 KINGS 8

33 "When your people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they have sinned against you, and if they turn again to you and acknowledge your name and pray and plead with you in this house, 34 then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them again to the land that you gave to their fathers.

1 TIMOTHY 3

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

ISAIAH 11 & 65:25

6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

65:25 - The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the Lord.

REVELATION 14

6 Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. 7 And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

LUKE 2

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"