

THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST DANIEL

Lesson Seven: Daniel Six

Introduction

The story of Daniel in the lion's den is familiar to most of us and the most loved children's story in the Bible. However, many of us may not recall why He was sentenced to be killed by lions, nor what the prophetic message from God is for us in this chapter.

Chapter six also speaks about **four marks of integrity** that Daniel manifest in this situation and it also tells us much about **Daniel's prayer life**.

Daniel faced the penalty of death not for something that he had done wrong, but for something He had done right in God's sight.

- A. Our world is not characterized by fairness.
- B. Daniel provides us with an example of one who was able to represent God in an unjust environment.

Where we left Daniel in chapter five and the influence, he had on the Medo-Persian Empire.

THE SETTING

- A. **Political situation.**
 - 1. Babylon's head of gold was gone, and the breast and arms of silver was established.
 - 2. Absolute monarchy was replaced by a system of governmental hierarchy.
 - 3. In order that the new kingdom might be a stable government, Darius organized it thoroughly.
 - 4. 120 "satraps" and 3 commissioners over them.
- B. **Daniel's role.**
 - 1. Daniel was appointed one of the commissioners and Darius planned to make him Prime Minister of the whole empire.
 - 2. Daniel is described in verse three as having "***an excellent spirit***".
 - 3. This is the first of the four marks of integrity in Daniel. **AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT.**
 - 4. Men did not grow weaker in Daniel's presence, but they grew stronger.

THE PLOT AGAINST DANIEL (6:4-9)

- A. **First**, they tried to find grounds for accusing him "***in regard to government affairs***".

1. His job record was spotless. How did he do that?
2. By remaining ***TRUSTWORTHY***, which the second mark of integrity in Daniel.
3. Proverbs 20:6 says, "***Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, but who can find a trustworthy man.***"

B. **Second**, they attempt to attack his personal life.

1. However, there was "***no negligence or corruption...in him.***"
2. This is the third mark of integrity in Daniel ***PERSONAL PURITY***.
3. Scripture exhorts us to personal purity.
 - James 1:22-27
 - 1 Peter 1:14-16
 - I John 3:2, 17-18

C. **The falsehood**

1. "Envy hates the excellence it cannot reach."
2. Their conclusion after intensive scrutiny is summarized in 6:5.
3. Daniel's relationship with God was so powerful that it excluded anything in his conduct which might furnish a handle for which to be accused.
4. His enemy's plan was based on *falsehood and flattery*.
5. In effect their proposal would make Darius "god for a month".
6. In signing this decree Darius makes himself a type of antichrist.

D. **One of the themes of Daniel six is the perpetual conflict of the kingdom of darkness against the Kingdom of Light.**

E. **Daniel is consistent in serving God.**

1. This is the fourth mark of Daniel's integrity – ***CONSISTENT WALK WITH GOD***.
2. When Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house and continued kneeling...praying three times a day (v.10.)
3. Daniel's prayer life was not *crisis oriented*.
4. Daniel had a ***HABIT OF PRAYER***.
5. Daniel had an ***OBJECT OF PRAYER***.

6. Daniel had a ***PLACE OF PRAYER.***
7. Daniel had a ***DEFINITE ATTITUDE OF PRAYER.***

DANIEL IS PROTECTED BY GOD

A. The displeasure of the king. (6:13-15)

1. Both Daniel and Darius had been legally trapped.
2. This story is as much about Darius as it is about Daniel.

B. Darius and Daniel (6:14)

1. Darius tried everything possible to spare Daniel.
2. Verses 18-20 indicate that his trust in Daniel's God was not as great as his words to Daniel.
3. At first light, he "***went in haste to the lion's den***". (vs. 19-20)
4. In verse 22 we find a testimony of divine deliverance and vindication.
5. Daniel 6:23

LESSONS FOR US FROM DANIEL SIX

- A. We will seldom receive what we deserve from people. So, we should learn not to expect it.
- B. We will always receive what is best from God. So, we should expect it.
- C. Our ability to manage human injustice and divine goodness is directly related to the consistency of our walk with God.
- D. One way to measure the quality of our walk with God is by evaluating our daily devotional life.
 1. What is involved in my daily devotions?
 2. How consistent am I in doing them?
 3. What priority do I give them?
 4. Do I benefit from my time in the Word?
 5. How effective is my prayer life?
 - We pray as our face is set, toward Jerusalem or Babylon.
 - "Real true faith is man's weakness leaning on God's strength". D.L. Moody

E. The reason that the lion's did not Daniel was because of his faith. (v.23)