



DANIEL SIX

Our study takes us to the most known chapter in Daniel and one of the most beloved stories in all the Bible: Daniel in the lion's den.

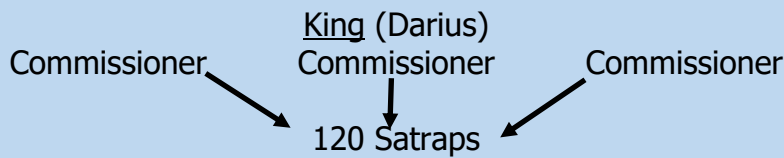
- This chapter is the last of the historical narratives in Daniel
- It is fairly straight forward, but the applications for us today are enormous

The Background

1. This takes place during the reign of the Medes (Darius is the king)

- VBS impressions of a teenage Daniel in the lion's den are not accurate
- The Babylonian captivity lasted 70 years. Daniel is easily in his 80's or even 90's by this time

Organizational Structure of Median Empire



Daniel is one of these three commissioners

- Belshazzar appointed Daniel to # 3 spot in Babylon

A. Because of the way Daniel applied himself and his spirit the king was ready to appoint Daniel to a new position of being over the entire kingdom (v. 3)

- The other commissioners and satraps conspire to bring Daniel down
- It seems that jealousy is fueling their contempt of Daniel

1. They could not find any corruption in Daniel (v. 4)

- he is "blameless"
- this is yet another reason why Ezekiel uses Daniel as an example of a righteous person (14:14, 20)

2. The opponents pressure Darius to sign a law that cannot be revoked (v. 5-9)

- no prayers to any other god for 30 days
- penalty for violating the law was death

Their statement is false

"all the commissioners...have consulted together" (7)

3. Daniel knew (v. 10): the law and the consequences

- he prayed as he had "been doing previously"
Daniel prayed 3x a day, on his knees, facing Jerusalem
- Daniel was discovered and turned in
The prejudice against Daniel is illustrated with " Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah" (13) - that was over 50 years ago.

Similarities between ch 3 & ch 6

Death is the punishment
Miraculous deliverance
God is praised by the king

- Darius tries to save Daniel (14) but is pressured by the opponents (15) (similar to Esther 1:19; 8:8)
- Darius gives Daniel assurance that God will deliver him (16)
- The next morning it was discovered that Daniel was alive. God had sent His angel to protect him (23)
- The conspirators, and their families were all thrown into the lion's den (24)

4. Darius made a decree honoring God (26-27)

Lessons for Us:

1. There are people watching you to _____ you and cause you _____. They may lie. They may change the _____.
2. Light shinning is _____ (Phil 2:14-15; Col 3:22-24)
3. Daniel was innocent, yet he _____ (1 Pet 1:7)
4. We must obey God rather than _____ (Acts 5:29)
5. God _____ Daniel to go into the lion's den
6. God is always _____