

THE BOOK OF DANIEL  
"Daniel and the Lions"  
Daniel 6:1-28

Introduction

1. Babylon is a defeated foe (Dan. 5). Medo-Persia reigns (5:31). Darius the Mede may be identified with Gubaru of secular history.

2. New government officials rule. Over 120 districts (satrapies), the king reigns with three presiding officers responsible to him alone (vv. 1-2). Daniel was the leading presiding officer.

3. As a foreigner and believer in a single God (montheistic approach), he came under fire from the nationals and their polytheistic beliefs. BUT GOD is faithful in His dealings with those who stand with HIM! The truth of this statement is supported by three observations:

1. Concerning the DISTINCTION of Daniel.

Throughout the land, Daniel stood in a unique position as noted by:

a. His personal excellance. vv. 3, 22.

At 86 years of age, Daniel's disposition and personality were exceptional. Before God and men, he lived an acceptable and responsible life. Here is true moral excellance.

b. His public exercise. v. 10

The spiritual life of Daniel was ordered. He practised what he believed. Here are some big verbs to show his forthright spiritual exercise: he knew; he went; he kneeled (and prayed); he gave thanks! His piety was not paraded but it was patent.

2. Concerning the DEGRADATION of men.

The darkness of men's hearts is most keenly noticed in the face of moral and spiritual brilliance. Mark the darkness of Daniel's associates by:

a. Their plot. v. 4, 5.

All men have a desire for God (Romans 1). But men envy others

(Eccles. 4:4). To have a foreign monotheistic Jew over their land directed these men to plot a scheme against him. They furtively moved at him religiously.

b. Their plan. vv. 6-9.

Using their high positions, they determined to get at Daniel without the king knowing their true goal. Three verses indicate that they did this in concert and with noise (vv. 6,11,15). Cf. Psa. 2:1 for same verb.

c. Their purpose. vv. 11-18

To get rid of Daniel was the objective. But the king did not agree. He opposed this for we read: he was sore displeased; he set his heart to deliver Daniel; he spoke words of confidence to Daniel; he spent a night fasting. Evil men had in fact led a heathen man to God!

3. Concerning the DETERMINATION of God.

1 Cor. 10:13 is more than pious truth; it is a fact: God IS faithful. Mark how He demonstrated His faithfulness to Daniel:

a. By physical deliverance. v. 23.

Only God was sufficient for this matter. Things beyond men's power are within God's!

b. By spiritual approval. v. 23.

The nub of the story is that Daniel believed God (cf. Heb. 11:33).

c. By earthly prominence. v. 28.

This is not why Daniel stood, but it is what happened!

d. By global influence. v. 26, 27.

Daniel's faith promoted others to commend his God to still others. Here is a positive spread of the truth.

Conclusion

The service of God is worth it at all costs. To many, the price is too high; the margin of gain too narrow. How do you view things today? We pray you will give support to Daniel and his stand.