

Old Testament Lessons

Daniel In The Lions' Den

(Da 6:1-28)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greeting...
2. A series of lessons based on the Old Testament
 - a. We looked at a couple of weeks ago "Jonah & the Great Fish"
 - b. This week we will be looking at "Daniel In The Lion's Den"
3. The faith of Daniel has been an inspiration to many young people.
 - a. Faithful as a young man.
 - i. Only 15-17 years old.
 - b. In which he purposed in his heart not to defile himself.
 - i. **Da 1:8**
4. Daniel should also be an inspiration to those who of the aged.
 - a. He is an example of service and commitment in our "golden years."
 - b. We can also read of his faith as old man, perhaps in his mid-eighties.
5. The account of Daniel's faith, in his "golden years" is found in **Da 6:1-28**.
 - a. Let us look at the lesson of Daniel in the Lions' Den.

I. The Trap Is Set (1-9)

- A. Daniel is successful
 1. He is appointed one of three governors over the kingdom.
 - i. **Da 6:1-2**
 2. Daniel "distinguished" himself above the others.
 - i. **Da 6:3**
 - ii. His success was due to his "excellent spirit", not cunning or political maneuvering
 - iii. Proving one can be successful in business and politics w/o compromising character.
 - iv. Darius contemplates setting Daniel over the whole realm.
- B. Daniel is envied
 1. His success leads to envy by others
 - i. **Da 6:4**
 - ii. Even the most godly men can have their enemies.
 - a. Ex: David; Christ; Paul...
 - iii. Enemies by virtue of jealousy
 2. His noble character is attested to by his enemies
 - i. **Da 6:4**
 - ii. They could make no charge against him, finding no fault or error in him
 - iii. Because he was "faithful"
 - a. Trustworthy, dependable
 3. His enemies determine there is only one way to defeat him.
 - i. **Da 6:5**

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- ii. To find some conflict between the law of God and that of the land.
 - a. Which they then set out to do.
- C. Daniel is targeted
 - 1. The king is approached by Daniel's enemies.
 - i. **Da 6:6**
 - 2. They propose a royal statute, a firm decree.
 - i. **Da 6:7**
 - ii. That no petition can be made of any god or man for thirty days, except the king w/o punishment of the "lion's den."
 - 3. The king is encouraged to establish the decree.
 - i. **Da 6:8-9**
 - ii. Which according to the law of the Medes and Persians, can't be altered.
 - iii. King Darius signs the decree.
 - 4. Daniel's faith brought him this far but now his faith could cause him to lose everything.
 - i. What would you do in his place?
 - ii. Let's see what Daniel did...

II. The Trap Is Sprung (10-17)

- A. Daniel continues to pray
 - 1. Knowing full well that the decree had been signed.
 - i. **Da 6:10**
 - 2. Practicing a custom common among the Jews
 - i. **Da 6:10**
 - ii. Praying three times a day
 - a. **Ps 55:17** "Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice."
 - iii. Praying toward Jerusalem
 - a. **I Ki 8:27-30** "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! 28 Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today: 29 that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes **toward this place**. 30 And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray **toward this place**. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive."
 - iv. Praying on his knees
 - a. **I Ki 8:54** "And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to the LORD, that he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven."

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- v. Praying with thankfulness to God, even in times of trouble.
 - a. **Ph 4:6** "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God"
- 3. This was Daniel's own custom since his "early days."
 - i. **Da 6:10**
 - ii. Though great and powerful, fervent prayer was not beneath him.
 - iii. Though aged, he had not grown weary of prayer.
- B. Daniel is caught
 - 1. His enemies catch Daniel praying.
 - i. **Da 6:11**
 - 2. His enemies report Daniel to the king.
 - i. **Da 6:12-13**
 - ii. Reminding Darius of the unalterable decree.
 - iii. Accusing Daniel of disregarding the king and his decree.
 - a. Which he was.
 - 3. The king is forced to abide by his own decree.
 - i. **Da 6:14-15**
 - ii. Displeased with himself, the king tries to deliver Daniel.
 - iii. Daniel's enemies pressure the king to abide by his decree.
- C. Daniel is thrown into the lions' den
 - 1. Yet the king is hopeful
 - i. **Da 6:16**
 - ii. That Daniel's God will deliver him.
 - iii. Whom Daniel had served "continually."
 - a. Would he have had such hope if Daniel was sporadic in his service to God?
 - 2. The den is closed with a stone and sealed.
 - i. **Da 6:17**
 - ii. Sealed with the signet ring of the king and his lords.
 - iii. Ensuring that the purpose concerning Daniel would not be changed.
 - 3. Daniel's enemies think they have won.
 - i. They have Dan in the den that is sealed
 - ii. But no man made seal can keep God from accomplishing His plans.
 - a. **Mt 27:62-66** (Christ's tomb sealed)

III. The Trap Is Spoiled (18-28)

- A. Darius is worried
 - 1. His night is restless
 - i. **Da 6:18**
 - ii. He spends the night fasting, and without musicians.
 - iii. He can't sleep

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2. His concern for Daniel is evident
 - i. **Da 6:19-20**
 - ii. Rising early in the morning, going quickly to the den.
 - iii. "Crying" to Daniel with a lamenting voice.
 - iv. Wondering if God has delivered Daniel.
- B. Daniel is delivered
 1. Daniel answers the king
 - i. **Da 6:21-22**
 - ii. Answers w/ respect to the king
 - a. "O king, live forever!"
 - iii. **I Pt 2:17** "Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king."
 - iv. Answers w/ word of God's great deliverance.
 - a. Saved by angel
 - b. Shut the lions' mouth
 - v. With confirmation of his innocence.
 - a. Innocent before God
 - b. Guilty of no wrong before the king.
 2. Darius removes Daniel from the den
 - i. **Da 6:23**
 - ii. The king being exceedingly glad.
 - iii. Daniel has no injuries.
- C. The conspirators are executed
 1. Cast into the same den intended for Daniel, w/ their families.
 - i. **Da 6:24**
 2. As often happens, those who set the trap get caught in it.
 - i. **Es 7:10** "So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided."
 - ii. **Ps 7:14-16** "Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood. 15 He made a pit and dug it out, And has fallen into the ditch which he made. 16 His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown."
- D. God Is Exalted
 1. Darius makes a decree that the God of Daniel be feared.
 - i. **Da 6:25-27**
 - ii. He is the living God, and steadfast forever.
 - iii. His kingdom is indestructible, and His dominion everlasting.
 2. Another pagan king comes to realize Who is really in control.
 - i. As did Nebuchadnezzar
 - a. **Da 4:34-35**
 - ii. As did Belshazzar, only too late
 - a. **Da 5:26-28**

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- E. Daniel Prospers
 - 1. In the reign of Darius, who ruled Chaldea.
 - i. **Da 6:28**
 - 2. In the reign of Cyrus of Persia (who also ruled over Darius)
 - i. **Da 1:21**

IV. What Are Those Noble Qualities Of Daniel We Should Strive For?

- A. He had an excellent spirit.
 - 1. We never see Daniel too sad or too excited he was focused and driven to be as righteous as he could.
- B. He was without fault in his business dealings.
 - 1. They could find no fault.
 - 2. How many Christians today think they can separate their Christian walk with their business walk?
- C. He was faithful to those over him.
 - 1. He respected his "boss" and gave him honor.
 - 2. This is a quality that kids should be taught in the home w/ their parents.
- D. He was committed to prayer throughout his life
 - 1. He lived **I Th 5:17** and so should we.
- E. He was willing to obey God rather than man.
 - 1. How many of us try and please our bosses, parents, children, teachers...over God?
 - 2. This ought not be.

CONCLUSION

- 1. When we think of Daniel a sentence that could sum up his live would be "he was a man who "believed in his God."
- 2. "Daniel In The Lions' Den" is a biblical account that has thrilled many children.
 - a. But its lessons are not just for children.
 - b. Daniel is a role model for adults as well.
 - i. For politicians.
 - ii. For anyone involved in administrative affairs.
 - iii. For Christians young and old.
- 3. Let us all learn from Daniel who exemplified what it means to seek first the kingdom of God (Mt 6:33) and to obey God rather than man (Ac 5:39).
- 4. Invitation
 - a. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study God's Word **Ro 10:17**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent **Ac 17:30**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Ro 10-9-10**
 - v. Be Immersed For The Forgiveness Of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. "Strive" To Live A Perfect Life In Christ **I Jn 1:7**