

Daniel 6:10 – Being Thankful in the Midst of Struggles

Barnes, TSK, GreekLexicon, Trapp, Poole, Delitzsch, JFB, Gill, Geneva, Clarke, Calvin, Handfuls, Henry,

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: You have been through a lot these past 3 years. And I am not just talking **Covid**.

You have seen a rise in **persecution** around the world.

You have seen your **government, the courts, and the police become more aggressive** against Christians and worship.

You have seen the **woke mobs trying to stifle Christians** if you did not join them in their “woke-isms.”

You have seen **restrictions in travel**.

You’ve seen loved ones **die in isolation in nursing homes**.

You have seen many **lives destroyed by the onerous restrictions on businesses** placed on them by the government.

Now there is **high inflation** and it is almost impossible to buy a house.

It hasn’t been fun, has it? **You’ve complained, haven’t you?**

Well, **try putting yourself in Daniel’s shoes** for a moment.

This man was **ripped from his family, his home, his position, and his country** and forced to **live in a foreign land where idols and the kings were gods**.

He **lived at the mercy of a pagan king**.

He was surrounded by **people who hated him with a passion**.

His **own countrymen cowered** and bowed to this pagan king!

Now you are saved as Daniel was, so now consider how you responded to your hardships and then see how he responded. That is what we will consider for Thanksgiving 2022.

Our headings are:

Daniel Accepted his Situation

Daniel Continued in his Service

Our goals are: **That you will live a life of thankfulness because God is always faithful – whether times are good or bad.**

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, **he went home**. And in his upper room, **with his windows open toward Jerusalem**, he **knelt down** on his knees three times that day, and **prayed** and **gave thanks** before his God, as was his custom since early days.

Daniel Accepted his Situation

1. Daniel saw he couldn’t stop the evil schemes and laws of wicked men, so he gave up, went home.

He did not want to be among idolaters and haters of God in these difficult times. God and God's family were all he needed.

His enemies had tricked the Medo-Persian king and caused him to sign an edict saying if anyone prayed to any other God than to the king, he would be fed to lions. (Medo-Persian laws could never be rescinded.)

Daniel could go home in peace because he knew his times were in God's hands and not the king's.

2. Daniel always opened his window, looked toward Jerusalem, and prayed, as Jews did.

This was not pride or being a show-off. This was not superstition. This was not being defiant of the king. No!

a. Daniel prayed with his window open to be an example to his fellow Jews and a testimony to the Medo-Persians. (He knew God was everywhere and he could pray inside his house, but he didn't.) He didn't want to lose his testimony!

b. Daniel prayed with his window open to testify of his faith in the coming Savior. The temple in Jerusalem was a picture of Jesus. Jesus was called the tabernacle and the temple of God because there was the real presence of God which showed his closeness to his people. (God promised to meet with his people and dispense his grace there.) So this wasn't a ritual, like Muslims look toward Mecca in their prayers.

c. Daniel prayed with his window open to show his hope of his return to Judah.

3. Daniel prayed as the Jews always prayed!

Psalms 5:7 But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; **In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.**

Jonah 2:4 Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.'

Look at what the Psalmist wanted to happen to himself if he did not look toward the temple to pray.

Psalm 137:5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, **Let my right hand forget its skill!** 6 If I do not remember you, Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth--If I do not exalt Jerusalem Above my chief joy.

But it wasn't the city! It was what was in the city – the temple of God.

This looking toward the temple in Jerusalem came from Solomon when he dedicated the temple.

1 Kings 8:47 "yet when they come to themselves in the land **where they were carried captive**, and repent, and make supplication...48 "and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and **pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built** for Your name: 49 "then hear in heaven...

Daniel did no aim toward the east or toward the king's palace, but toward where God dwelt. He was the source of help!

4. Lessons:

a. God doesn't always cause you to avoid troubles, but he always remains with you through them. (And you will always have opposition as long as you live on this earth!)

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

b. Being thankful is not just saying, "Thank You." It is living for God under rough circumstances. Being faithful is being thankful.

It is easier to live for God when things are going well and you are being blessed.

c. Be calm under stress. You are setting a good example and teaching the world about your God! You show you know he is in charge!

d. Pray with expectation of help! Pray toward The Holiest Place—heaven, from where you help comes.

Daniel Continued in his Service

1. Daniel always prayed 3 times per day, so he continued the custom he had learned in Judah for Jews.

Busy as he was, pressured as he was in a foreign land, Daniel took time to pray.

Psalms 55:17 **Evening and morning and at noon** I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.

Let me make this clear:

Praying showed Daniel rejected this wicked Medo-Persian law.

Praying showed Daniel's friends and his enemies he had had not given up worship of God and that his faith in God was solid even through troubles. His love for God was strong!

His love for God was stronger than his fear of men!

2. Daniel continued to kneel and pray, a wonderful picture of the one who is begging – a thing he learned from his youth.

Kneeling showed the greatness of his God.

Some people think that since only the outward profession of faith was prohibited, Daniel should have made accommodation as he could still pray to God. He could have prayed secretly or privately and not made it obvious. **But if he did that, he would be saying that the *expressions of his faith were meaningless and could be dropped at any time.*** He was commanded to look in faith to the temple – from where Jesus would come. What a bad lesson for the Jews and for Medo-Persians if he had stopped! **They would feel that practices of faith that were commanded by God were non-essential.**

This would have diminished God in their eyes.

So Daniel stood alone as the vultures encircled him. He obeyed God rather than men and was willing to die for doing this.

3. Daniel continued to give thanks as he did before – thanks for God's provision and preservation of his body and soul in Babylon. (So words were also used, along with his faithfulness, to show thanks.)

Things were bad, but he was still thankful for what he had in the past, for what he had and present, and for what he would receive in the future.

He had salvation, food, clothing, shelter, God's Word and God's Spirit.

4. Daniel was a picture of a determined faith – like an oak, not dandelion.

The winds howled, but he remained strong. He did not waver in his faith.

5. Lessons:

a. While many good men would have simply said: "I will close my windows for 30 days, or I can pray at another time," remember Jesus words from Matthew 10:32 *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.*

When you pray to God you are showing a testimony!

b. Even though you are busy, and even though you have troubles in your life, take the time to pray. Set certain times to pray. Prayer should not just be something you fit in. It's a private meeting with God!

c. Even though you are busy, and even though you have troubles in your life, take the time to give thanks for all you have received from God's hand – even when there are troubles. Yes, you can even give God thanks for troubles – for they sanctify you.

d. Worship God because he has called you to worship. If he hinders you from worship, accept it. But if any man wants to stop you, you must, like Daniel, defy him.

e. God wants to see your faith in outward manifestations as well! So pray... publicly...and give thanks...publicly.

Conclusion:

Daniel had much to be thankful for and he was. He was saved by the coming Savior and he had his name written in heaven. He had a privileged position on earth. He had an abundance of food, clothing, and shelter. He was a leader of his people and of Medo-Persians. Daniel especially showed how thankful he was for what he had by remaining faithful under his fiery trials. He knew fiery trials were ultimately for his purification.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Be thankful for all you have, even in bad circumstances, and show that thankfulness...not just in word, but by living faithfully. (Faithfulness is thankfulness.)

2. Practically, let people see that faithful living at your job, when flying on an airplane, when you are far away from home and no one knows your name, when you have to deal with a scummy contractor, when you eat at a restaurant, when you try to win the world for Jesus, when the telephone salesman calls, when you speak of your confident hope for the future, or when you are dealing with your enemies.

3. Be willing to lose a job, break-off a relationship, change a career, or lose money. Remember your wealth...real wealth! You are rich beyond measure!

Finally: **My times are in God's hands. Are your times in God's hands?** If not, you are in the Devil's hands and he will destroy you. If you don't want to be destroyed, place your faith in the one who holds the future. He will keep you in perfect peace in this life, and he will preserve your soul for eternity.