

Daniel 6:1-11 - Daniel's Unmovable Faith – Part 1

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone, dare to have a purpose firm, dare to make it know. This is children's song, but it is an adult faith. And Daniel's faith is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are: Daniel's **Distinguished Faith in his Civil Life**, Daniel's **Deceptive** 骗人的 **Friends in their Envious** 羡慕 **Life**, and Daniel's **Determined Faith in his Spiritual Life**.

Our goals are: That **you will see that because of Daniel's faith in the coming Messiah, he remained steadfast** 坚定 **under the harshest** 最恶劣的 **persecution**.

Daniel's Distinguished 卓著 **Faith in Civil Life**

1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; 2 and over these, **three governors, of whom Daniel was one**, that the satraps 专制者 might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. 3 Then this **Daniel distinguished himself above the governors** and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to **setting him over the whole realm**.

1. Darius the Mede did not destroy the governmental structure when he captured Babylon. He kept **Daniel as one of the 3 governors in the kingdom**. Daniel rightly could have been banished 放逐 or killed...or at the very least, ignored by Darius. Isn't it interesting how God worked? He made an old Jewish slave in a foreign country, to be leader there **in order to protect his covenant people**. And didn't God also use Orphan Esther by making her queen in a foreign land to **protect his people**? Jehovah used Daniel to keep teaching the covenant people so their faith would be strong in him and that they too would keep their eyes on the coming Messiah.

2. Like cream, Daniel rose to the top of the leaders. **Whatever he did, prospered. When he judged, he was fair. He worked hard. He was honest.** How many 90 year olds would you think can count and manage gold and silver coins...without calculators and computers? How many 90 year olds are willing to work? (Age 65 is not God's retirement age. Retirement is not a biblical concept. Listlessly driving around the country in an RV for 15 years is a pagan view of life.) Specifically, Daniel controlled the finances of the kingdom. He did so well in his position that King Darius wanted to make Daniel-a foreign slave- leader of the **whole Babylonian Empire!** How amazing God is!

3. However, while you look with awe 威严 at Daniel's godliness among pagans 异教徒 you must remember that **it was God who gave him grace to be honorable**. God kept Daniel alive through 70 years of captivity. God opened Darius' eyes to Daniel – even while Belshazzar forgot about him. **God made Daniel contented with his treasures in heaven, so he did not steal from the king.** God gave him faith.

4. A principle to consider: You too might have to be involved with a government that is not always honest...or sometimes downright 透顶 bad, but you have a duty to submit to the government unless it is forcing you to break God's law. **1Peter 2:13** Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the praise of those who do good.*
How far would Daniel have gone to support Darius? Matthew Henry summarized it well: "He was at the king's service usque ad aras—as far as the altars; but there he left him."

Daniel's Deceptive Friends in their Envious Life

4 So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; **but they could find no charge or fault**, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. 5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we **find it against him concerning the law of his God.**"

1. **Envy raised its ugly head in the hearts of the other rulers. Envy and hate are best buddies.** Why were the civil leaders **so envious and hateful** of Daniel? They hated him because the King trusted Daniel more than he trusted them. Daniel would not have allowed these wicked men (men were Babylonians) to try to steal from the king (of the Medes). He knew the king was old and incompetent – according to history- but he did not take advantage of the king.

2. **So the Babylonians in leadership joined with the Medo-Persians in leadership and conspired** to find a charge against Daniel to destroy him.

Proverbs 27:4 Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, But who is able to stand before jealousy?

Strikingly引人注目的是, they could find nothing against him – not even a speck. He had no unpaid bills. He had no unkind words. His wife didn't accuse him of mistreating her. No one was willing to speak evil against him - even for a bribe. He gave men no excuse to accuse him. He did not break the law. This might have been Daniel's prayer:

Psalm 27:11 Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.

(If he were here today, Daniel would follow the speed limit, he would be careful with what movies he watched, he would put his recyclable materials in the right container, and he would not pour motor oil down the sink. He would vote at election time.) Daniel **lived this way because he knew he belonged to Jesus Christ and did not want to bring shame to his name.**

3. The wicked men finally concluded that the only way they could work against Daniel was to use his religion against him.

(And did not the Jews themselves do the same thing to the church? They tricked Rome to kill Jesus and then manipulated the Romans to persecute the church while sitting on his lap as the Scarlet Harlot.)

4. This attempt to destroy Christians is not strange. The media today is always quick to point out if a pastor or Christian leader falls into sin. They don't care if wicked people are really bad all the time, but if a Christian makes a public error they let everyone know. But there are other ways the wicked try to destroy Christians. They call us insulting names. They guilt manipulate Christians. (You don't love your children unless you raise them the way we say.) They appeal to "studies" and "authorities" to contradict顶撞 what Christians believe. They urge the passage of laws that are contradictory to God's truth. **So be careful how you walk.** Don't give the world reason to shame the name of Christ. Don't mistreat your wife...provide for your children...don't steal from your job...be faithful to your spouse...be socially and politically responsible...pay your taxes.

6 So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever! 7 "All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that **whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.** 8 "Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." 9 Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

5. To get their devilish scheme to be successful, they had to trick the king to sign this horrible law by stroking his ego – make him think much about himself. This was dangerous. These men ran the risk of deceiving their king who had power over their lives. **But they did this because their hatred was so great.** They praised a king whom they probably hated.

6. After praising the king, they urged him to make a law to make himself god. What was that law? That no one could pray for 30 days to anyone else except him. When they stroked the king's ego he started doing tricks...like a dumb dog that is bribed. What a disgraceful thing for a leader to think that he can provide for the needs of all his people! What self-deception! And even as his ears were being tickled by the devils he signed this most heinous滔天law to be god for a month. (Anyone who receives prayers is god.) He wanted to be the grand benefactor. He was trying to "ungod" God. **What aggravated加剧this action was that he even forbade beggars from asking of for food. The king, full of himself, with high self-esteem, signed this wicked law.** He lacked discernment. Maybe he wanted to show his power...being weak...and stand up to Cyrus, the Persian leader. **And Medo-Persian law was unique: Any law of the Medes and Persians, when passed, could never be changed. So the law had more difficulties attached to it.**

7. What about the men? How awful to deceive a superior. (Children, take note.) These men even denied themselves and their families the most basic human need-to call upon God.

8. How remarkable that many national leaders believe it is their duty to provide for the needs of the citizens. Because our leaders believe they have this duty, when they can't provide for those need themselves they steal from others to provide. And then they pat themselves on the backs and say: "We have saved the nation." Do they really know what God has in store for those who pretend to be the benefactors of mankind and go beyond what his law allows? This is becoming more common in Western Countries. The Mayor of New York recently forbade people from giving food to those who were homeless from the Super Storm Sandy because the city could not verify the salt and fat content of the food. A Canadian adoption agency forbade the adoption of a child because the ceiling of the child's room was 1 ½ inches too low, so they kept the child in an orphanage. Leaders love to get the praise of men so they work to get men dependent on them. President Obama gave free cell phones with paid plans when he was elected the first time... Almost 1 in 5 of the US gets food stamps as gifts from the government – who sees itself as grand benefactors. God will show them that they are mere men and not gods.

Daniel's Determined Faith In his Spiritual Life

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.

1. When Daniel saw that he couldn't stop the evil law, he gave up, went home, but continued to obey

the laws he was called to do. He did not become bitter.

He always prayed 3 times per day, so he continued. Busy as he was, he took time to pray.

He always opened his window toward Jerusalem. He prayed with his window open to be an example to his fellow Jews, and he continued. "It was hard to sing the Lord's songs in a foreign land," but he did. He faced Jerusalem as a testimony of his faith in the coming Savior and his hope of his return to Judah, so he continued.

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.

He always knelt to pray, a wonderful picture of the one who is begging, and so he continued. It was very common for Jews to pray 3 times per day. (Psalm 55)

He always gave thanks for God's preservation of his people in Babylon, and he continued.

He knew that faith was not for times of convenience or for good times. Faith had to be constant.

He had to keep looking to God for help and receiving his mercies every morning. You see, Daniel was a picture of a determined faith. Daniel was an oak, not dandelion蒲公英. The winds howled 嗥叫, but he remained strong. He did not waver in his faith. And he looked for his reward.

Matthew 10:32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

2. Many good men would have simply said: "I will close my windows for 30 days, or I can pray at another time." So why did Daniel insist on continuing this:

Daniel continued to pray the way he did because he wanted to show the greatness of his God.

Daniel continued to pray to show that he rejected this wicked law.

Daniel continued to pray so that his friends and his enemies might know that he had had not given up worship of God and that his faith in God was solid even through troubles. If he

hadn't continued, that would have diminished God in their eyes. So he stood alone as the vultures 秃鹰 encircled him. He obeyed God rather than men.

Conclusion:

Daniel distinguished himself in his civil life. His performance on his job was directly influenced by his real living faith in Messiah. **Daniel distinguished himself in his spiritual life.** His actions in his spiritual life were governed by his real living faith in Messiah. Daniel's "friends" however, lived their lives for their own promotion... Their god was themselves. They lived to please themselves. They did not care who was hurt in the process. Their motto was: Survival of the fittest. They thought they would make easy prey of Daniel – destroy him and advance.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: I pray to God that your faith will be well-spoken of everywhere you go: at your job, 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 the telephone salesman calls, or when you are dealing with your enemies. You see, you belong to Jesus Christ. He paid for your freedom. You must reflect him to the world. You want to bring glory to him. And you want to see the world come to him. You want to store treasures in heaven. Let your faith in Jesus Christ move you.

Finally, are you tired of fighting against God and God's people? It is time to surrender. Ask God to make you his child and bring you into his family. Tell him you want him to count Jesus Christ's death as yours. It is time to come home. I want to welcome you home.