

Daniel 6

5 Characteristics of the life of Daniel

I. His POSITION (v.1-3)

- A. Darius takes over, restructures the kingdom
- B. Daniel immediately in a position of authority, power – Belshazzar made him 3rd ruler in the kingdom
- C. (v.3) Daniel was the top choice to rule the satraps – excellent spirit, “pre-eminent”, surpassing, extraordinary – same word used for Nebuchadnezzar’s statue (2:31)
- D. Darius pondering another promotion – lit. = “to plan”, more than just a thought

II. His PERSECUTION (v.4-9)

- A. Governors/satraps “sought” to find fault – lit. “continued to seek”, idea of searching/inquiring of a thing
- B. These men scrutinized Daniel’s life – **2 ways**:
 - 1. His PROFESSIONAL conduct
 - A. Tried to find a charge – seeking to find some type of matter, issue
 - B. Aramaic root = “to ascend, climb” – a pretext to make it seem worse
 - C. No issues, corruption – he was faithful, trustworthy
 - 2. His PERSONAL life
 - A. (v.5) These men dig now into Daniel’s daily activities
 - B. They cannot find any legitimate issue – the scheming of man
 - C. **ILL: Jews seeking to find fault with Jesus, watching and waiting**
- C. “Thronged” before the king (v.6) – lit. “to be in tumult”, gathered hastily – their hurried plan:
 - A. It was DIRE – had to act fast because of the king’s plan
 - B. It was DECEPTIVE – underlying purpose veiled in honor to the king
 - C. It was DESTRUCTIVE – they conspired together, “consulted”

III. His PERSISTENCE (v.10-17)

- A. Daniel heads home – knows the decree is signed - his next steps
- B. Daniel does what comes naturally – prayer and supplication, **4 traits**:
 - 1. It is RESPONSIVE – immediately goes to prayer
 - 2. It is REVERENT – proper attitude, frame of mind
 - 3. It is REPETITIVE – 3x a day
 - 4. It is ROUTINE – “as was his custom”, from his youth
- C. Daniel is discovered praying – the men tell the king – “that Daniel” (v.13)
- D. King displeased with himself – lit. “greatly distressed over what he had done”
- E. He was tricked, tried in vain to reverse the effects – set his heart on Daniel’s freedom
- F. (v.16) Daniel’s relationship with the Lord impacted others – good and bad
- G. Daniel “served continually”, root=to dwell, continuance – ingrained into him

IV. His PROTECTION (v.18-24)

- A. King couldn’t eat or sleep, no musicians, distraught – (Ch. 2) Nebu’s vision, “so troubled”
- B. (v. 20) Early morning, runs to the den – “lamenting” voice, lit. painful cry
- C. Servant of the “living God” – “My God”, sent His angel – invisible shielding from the Lord
- D. He was “found innocent” before God – idea of searching, uncovering and finding
- E. **ILL: Jesus before Pilate – trial, accusations, false testimony, humiliation**
- F. His relationship with God affected relationship with the King – the witness

V. His PROSPERITY (v.25-28)

- A. King greets all people on the earth – like Nebu’s decree (Ch. 3)
- B. (v.26) “tremble and fear” – **3 declarations** about the majesty of God:
 - 1. His DOMINION – Living God, steadfast, kingdom never ends
 - 2. His DELIVERANCE – His faithfulness protects us through and from tribulations
 - 3. His DIVINITY – Creator and mastery over the universe, all creation
- C. Daniel’s faithfulness continues to cause him to be successful