

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study # 9: Daniel 6 – Persecutors’ Lions
 Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

What is the theme of Daniel chapters 1 – 6? Lessons that teaches of the characters that we must develop in order to make to the everlasting kingdom of Jesus Christ

What is the theme of Daniel chapters 2, 7 – 12? The rise and fall of kingdoms that directly affected God’s people.

How much more time do we have until Jesus comes again based on Daniel 2? (show slide)

Daniel 2:45

45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

Jesus will set up his everlasting kingdom as He promised!

Remember God in Daniel 2:37 and 38 prophesied that Babylon will fall. It happened as prophesied. In Daniel chapter 5 King Belshazzar, the grandson of King Nebuchadnezzar co-reigned with his idolatrous father, Nabonidus in Babylon. King Belshazzar rejected God’s offer of repentance. During a night of partying while the enemy, the Medes and Persians, surrounded the city Belshazzar received the message from God that he has been judged and found guilty and that the Medes and Persian will take over Babylon! Belshazzar was killed the same night of the invasion and take over. He died a lost man. He judgment was rendered guilty by God before the world!

While Belshazzar was living the gift of grace and hope was offered to him, but he rejected it! What will it be like for those who are resurrected to received their punishment of eternal death because they choose to cling on to sin and rejected God’s gift of salvation? It will be a very sad day indeed.

Why are people who are still in sin destroyed? What is the bottom line?

Hosea 4:6

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Those who are destroyed for a lack knowledge are destroyed because they rejected knowledge. They rejected the TRUTH! Instead of seeking the things of God, they made a habit of seeking the entertainment and pleasure seeking of the world. Their pride blocks the “door” of their heart to make a full surrender to God. They refuse to repent and turn from sin and cling on to the cross of Jesus Christ! God rejects those who rejects him.

The kingdom of Babylon was the Medes and Persian’s prized possession. They are in charge now and faces the challenge of growing a new kingdom.

Who was the first king of the new Medes and Persian empire?

Daniel 5:31

31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom [from Babylon], being about threescore and two years old.

At 62 years old, King Darius was a man of experience and valued the talent of those who are the best in their field of expertise.

What was one of first high ranking positions that Darius assigned and who was it?

Daniel 6:1-2

- 1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;
- 2 And over these presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Remember, the kingdom of Babylon reigned from 605 to 539 BC, only 66 years. Daniel was taken from Judah to Babylon as a captive at the age of 15 or 16 years old at the beginning of Babylon's rise. Daniel personally saw the rise and fall of Babylon. **Around 66 years later Daniel is now 80 or 81 years of age.** He had over 60 years experience of how to manage an emperor successfully as a top ranking official during King Nebuchadnezzar's reign. Daniel was well known throughout the middle east and beyond for his success, personal witness of the God of Heaven, and a man of broad knowledge.

Daniel was technically still a captive from Judah. Next to the king, Daniel was one of main persons in charge! He was the lead president of three and over all the princes! Only God can set something like this up. Daniel did not let the high ranking positions that was given to him over the years get to his head. He remained humbled. He understood that his main purpose was to glorify God and witness to others about the true God of heaven. Daniel was a missionary for God!

Why Did Darius choose Daniel?

Daniel 6:3

3 Then this Daniel was **preferred** above the presidents and princes, because an **excellent spirit** was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

“Excellent” (Aramaic) BDB Definition:

- 1) pre-eminent, surpassing, extreme, extraordinary (adjective)
- 2) exceedingly, extremely (adverb)

Spirit = mind and character

Daniel excelled in all that God had him do. Remember because of Daniel faithfulness in Daniel 1, God gave him knowledge and wisdom that was ten times greater than all the wise men. As Daniel gain experienced as the years went by his knowledge only increased. He was the best of the best. There was no one like Daniel!

Remember before Babylon was conquered, the queen of Babylon recognized the excellent spirit of Daniel when she recommended him to King Belshazzar to interpret the hand writing on the wall.

Daniel 5:12

12 Forasmuch as an **excellent spirit**, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.

From his youth to his old age Daniel had an excellent spirit. This the same “excellent spirit” that we must have in order to be a part of God’s everlasting kingdom.

Why did Daniel have this excellent spirit?

Daniel 1:8

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

We must purpose in our hearts not to defile and corrupt the minds and bodies with the devices and toys of the Devil!

Were the 120 princes (usually ‘blood” related to the king, sons, cousins, nephews, brothers, etc) excited about King Darius’ appointment of Daniel over them?

Daniel 6:4

4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Why did they want to persecute and execute Daniel? Why are God’s faithful persecuted today?

John 3:19-20

- 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**
- 20 For every one that **doeth evil hateth the light**, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

Always remember, truth hates lie and lie hates the truth! The presidents and princes who were idolaters hated Daniel because he was a witness to the true God of Heaven! Daniel’s “excellent spirit” pricked the consciousness of these men to repent and turn from sin. They rejected it. So they conspired and spied on Daniel to see if they could “dig up” some dirt. Since most governments were corrupt they thought that they could find something on Daniel. They probably thoroughly check the financial books to see if Daniel was stealing money. They could find anything. They checked to see if he had a conspiracy against the king. They could not find nothing. They could not find any fault in him! Daniel was faithful to God and it was very evident to them.

What did the princes conspire against Daniel and stop his true witness of the God of Heaven?

Daniel 6:5-9

5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

The princes conspired and deceived the king to sign a law that directly opposed Daniel’s worship to true God of Heaven. Even though this decree applied to all the people in the kingdom, their main object was to get rid of

Daniel, a true worshiper of God. They wanted to FORCE Daniel to forsake God and worship a man! This law that Darius signed was about **true vs false worship!**

Why did Darius sign this law?

Darius thought that the new “religious” law to force worship will be an excellent tool to unify the newly established emperor. The same will be true in the last days. “Religious” laws such as Sunday laws will be promoted, legislated, and enforced to try to unify the nation and the world. They will be thought as healing agents of peace to the world especially after a series of devastating events.

Satan will inspire and deceive governments to restrict the freedom to worship God of the Bible and force all people to worship man made laws that directly oppose the law of God!

Beware: Satan has conspired and deceived the USA government in tearing down the our Constitution and freedom to worship. The main purpose is to directly attack God’s people who are keeping the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus Christ.

After the “terrorist attacks” of 9/11 (2001) our constitutional rights in America have been eroding ever since. Over 17 years later our constitution is becoming an historical relic of the past in application.

The elimination of the first amendment is Satan’s ultimate goal

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

The first amendment is being challenged in application. Satan and his agents have been actively chopping away at the other 9 amendments in order to bring down his prize, the elimination of the first amendment!

For example:

Declaration of Independence: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Preamble of the US Constitution: *We the People* of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America

Amendment V – guarantees due process

Amendment VI (6th)

“In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.”

Amendment VIII (8th)

“Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.”

All our current terrorism laws such as the Patriot Act has challenged and made all these null and void in application and reality! Most recently Satan has been working hard to totally dismantle these fundamental rights through immigration laws.

Today, the US government's rhetoric has made immigrants synonymous to illegal and criminals. The US ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has rounded up a record number of immigrants by the thousands without any due process. **Many of these immigrants are legal with permanent status but are being labeled "criminals" with NO proof and held in US custody indefinitely. This is a total violation of the constitution. No speedy trial. No bail, held with no due process!** Also this is cruel and unusual punishment when many have not done anything wrong. All those on US soil have the human right to "due process."

Supreme Court Ruling Means Immigrants Could Continue To Be Detained Indefinitely

February 27, 2018 by National Public Radio

<https://www.npr.org/2018/02/27/589096901/supreme-court-ruling-means-immigrants-can-continue-to-be-detained-indefinitely>

"The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that immigrants, even those with permanent legal status and asylum seekers, do not have the right to periodic bond hearings."

"It's a profound loss for those immigrants appealing what are sometimes indefinite detentions by the government. Many are held for long periods of time — on average, 13 months — after being picked up for things as minor as joyriding. Some are held even longer."

"But the court wrote in its 5-3 opinion Tuesday, 'Immigration officials are authorized to detain certain aliens in the course of immigration proceedings while they determine whether those aliens may be lawfully present in the country.'"

On Tuesday, Justice Stephen G. Breyer read from his dissent, a rare move for the court and an indication of just how passionately he disagrees with the majority opinion.

" 'We need only recall the words of the Declaration of Independence,' Breyer said, 'in particular its insistence that all men and women have 'certain unalienable Rights,' and that among them is the right to 'Liberty.' ' He continued, calling the ruling 'legal fiction.' "

[Legal fiction: "an assertion accepted as true, though probably fictitious, to achieve a particular goal in a legal matter." - Google Dictionary]

Continuing with article:

" 'Whatever the fiction, would the Constitution leave the Government free to starve, beat, or lash those held within our boundaries?' Breyer argued. "If not, then, whatever the fiction, how can the Constitution authorize the Government to imprison arbitrarily those who, whatever we might pretend, are in reality right here in the United States?' "

"Breyer added, 'No one can claim, nor since the time of slavery has anyone to my knowledge successfully claimed, that persons held within the United States are totally without constitutional protection.' "

"The lead plaintiff in the case is a legal permanent resident, Alejandro Rodriguez, who came to the U.S. as a child and worked as a dental assistant. As a teenager, he was convicted for joyriding, and at 24, he pleaded guilty to misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance."

“Rodriguez was detained for three years without the right to appear before a judge to ask for bond.”

This is extremely serious! God is warning his people in the last days. Get ready and be prepared! The mark of the beast crisis is right around the corner!

“By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When **Protestantism** shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the **Roman power**, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with **spiritualism**, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make **provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions**, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.” Ellen White, Testimonies For The Church, Vol. 5, *The Coming Crisis*, p. 451

How long did it take for the law against Daniel to be enforced? One day! In the last days the final movements will be extremely rapid! This is not the time to sleep. Watch and pray! Be ready!

What was Daniel’s reaction to the new law? Did he change his devotion to God, His strength?

Daniel 6:10

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Daniel prayers were a sign of his loyalty to God & deliverance

This is what Daniel did for the last 66 years since he was a captive in Judah. His daily prayers was sign of his loyalty to the true God of Heaven and his deliverance!

When King Solomon was dedicating the temple in Jerusalem what did he ask God concerning Israelites who became captives in a foreign land because of disobedience?

2 Chronicles 6:36-39

36 If they sin against thee, (for there is no man which sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them over before their enemies, and they carry them away captives unto a land far off or near;

37 Yet if they bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn and pray unto thee in the land of their captivity, saying, We have sinned, we have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly;

38 If they return to thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, whither they have carried them captives, and pray toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, and toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name:

39 Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee.

Daniel was not only praying for himself, but for his people as a whole. The main reason Judah went into captivity was because of their rebellion against God. Daniel remained faithful and loyal to God. Every time he prayed he knew that the time of deliverance of His people was getting closer and closer. The seventy year prophecy of Judah captivity in Babylon was soon to end! **Jerusalem, the Canaan land, was a living legacy of the everlasting covenant and God’s promises!** Daniel never forgot and stayed faithful to the covenant.

While Daniel was praying what did the princes do?

Daniel 6:11-13

11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

Like the princes who spied against Daniel in the last days Satan will set up his spy agents and devices on God's people who are loyal to God and His everlasting covenant. They are obedient to ALL the commandments of God including the seventh day Sabbath. **These spy agents will report back that you are violating their laws that also demand worship of man-made religious laws that directly oppose God and His law!** As a result, many of God's people will be persecuted and some killed.

What was king Darius reaction when he found out that he would have to throw Daniel into the lion's den?

Daniel 6:14

14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

What was the princes reaction to the kings plea to try to deliver Daniel from execution in the lion's den?

Daniel 6:15

15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

King Darius had much respect for Daniel, but his pride blinded him from the conspiracy against Daniel. Now he is humbled by his mistake. Darius was a witness to Daniel's loyalty to God. He saw the evidence of God and His power through Daniel's "excellent spirit." Darius was sorry, broken, and had an attitude of repentance.

Who is like a lion waiting to devour God's people?

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your **adversary the devil**, as **a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.**

In Revelation chapter 13, Satan gives power to a leopard like beast with a mouth of a lion with seven heads who are going to persecute God's people in the last days. This lion, Papal Rome, hates the truth of God's word and will make laws that directly oppose the law of God!

What did King Darius say to Daniel that reveals that he had faith in the true God?

Daniel 6:16

16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, **Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.**

Darius had faith that God will deliver Daniel! Do you have faith that Jesus is coming again to fulfill his promise? Do you have faith that God will deliver you? Where is your faith?

Verses 17 – 19 After Daniel was thrown into the den of lions a large stone was placed on the entry way. It was then sealed with the signet ring of the king and could not be broken. That night the king could not eat or sleep. All that he could think about was Daniel in lion's den.

What did the king do early the next morning?

Daniel 6:19-20

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

Did Daniel respond? What was his response?

Daniel 6:21-22

21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Wow. These hungry lions mouths were shut tight! Daniel was not going to be their dinner.

What was the king's reaction and Daniel condition?

Daniel 6:23

23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

Like the 3 Hebrew men that were thrown in the fiery furnace, Daniel did not have one scar from the lions.

Where the lions really hungry? What happened to those who conspired against Daniel and their families?

Daniel 6:24

24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

What will happen to those who conspire, persecute, and kill God's people in the last days?

All persecutors beware! Here is the persecutor's curse!

Psalms 7:14-16

14 Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood.

15 He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made.

16 His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.

Remember Haman at the time of queen Esther, built gallows to exterminate God's people, but God turn it against Haman. In the end he hung on the same gallows he had built!

Psalms 9:15-16

- 15 The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken.
16 The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgaion. Selah.

Proverbs 26:27

27 Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.

In the last day those who persecute are digging their own graves. They will eventually get trapped and killed by there own devices.

What was King Darius conclusion of the whole matter?

Daniel 6:25-28

25 Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

King Darius came to the same conclusion of King Nebuchadnezzar, God is heaven is the true God and that His kingdom will last forever!

In the end, like Daniel, God's people will shine bright with the glory of God while those who persecuted them are destroyed by their own devices that were designed to persecute and kill God's people!

Daniel 12:3

3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Proverbs 4:18

18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Matthew 13:43

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.