

## The Why of the Lion's Den Daniel 6:1-16

INTRO: Why did Daniel end up in the lion's den? There are several reasons for his being cast into the den of lions.

Are the reasons for Daniel's being placed in a den of hungry lions good reasons? Yes, he was cast there because of good reasons, but not fair and just reasons. Daniel ended up in the den of lions for doing right, not wrong. He ended up being there for righteousness, not unrighteousness. Those are good reasons to suffer.

He is the story of a man who is facing death for doing something right. The Bible teaches us that if we are to suffer, let us do so for right and not for wrong (I Pet 2:19-21).

Daniel was above all a godly man and a man of integrity.

### I. VSS 1-3, POLITICAL INTEGRITY

A. Vs 1, With the death of King Belshazzar at the hands of the Medo-Persian military on the night Babylon fell, Darius the Mede became Babylon's ruler at age sixty-two (5:31).

1. With the conquest of the land came the need for organization of the provinces for taxation and other matters. In such cases, it was not uncommon to put into public service those who had served adequately under the past regime.
2. We are told that 120 princes, also called satraps, were appointed to have political rule over either large provinces, or a small group of people, the language allows for both.

B. Vs. 2 As we look back at Daniel's interpretation of the handwriting on the wall, without doubt, Darius had heard about this, as well as hearing of Daniel's prior faithful service. It is no wonder he was appointed to high political office.

1. Honesty, capability, responsibility— terms that are synonyms for integrity.
2. Daniel is not in his eighties or nineties. As a young man, he had dedicated his life to Jehovah God, and he had never faltered in faith and never failed in trust in God.
  - a. Daniel was a God-fearing man. How about you?
  - b. Daniel was upright in his dealings. Are you?
  - c. Daniel refused to compromise and do evil. You should too.

- C. Vs 3, Due to his experience and honesty, “Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes.....”
1. He was preferred as well “because an excellent spirit was in him....” Daniel had a great attitude.
    - a. Daniel wasn’t always finding something to gripe and complain about.
    - b. The Bible indicates that he was a pleasant person to be around; he was not a compromiser, but he spoke the truth in love.
    - c. The prophet Daniel, though a captive, was fully resting upon the sovereign will of God (Rom 8:28).
    - d. Good attitudes come from having “an excellent spirit” withing. As Philippians 4:8 instructs us, we are to think on true, honest, just, pure lovely, good and virtuous things. If you fill your mind with evil, you will develop an evil, spiteful spirit.
  2. Though a pagan, Darius was seriously thinking of putting Daniel in charge of the whole realm, answering to him alone. Wise leaders recognize the value of men like Daniel.

## II. VSS 4-5 PLOTTING AGAINST INTEGRITY

- A. Vs 4, There are and always will be in this present world, those who cannot stand the righteous. Dr. John Walvoord said: “The excellent services and integrity of Daniel soon became a barrier to the ambitions of the princes and presidents with who he was associated” (135). They were jealous.
1. A plot is hatched to take Daniel down; he was in the way of those who would advance or gain by corruption. In an age where good is called evil and evil good, the godly are under attack in many places.
  2. Daniel’s adversaries want through his files; they investigated his life, past and present. When the report came in, it was found that Daniel was clean; he was faithful, and he was not corrupt.
  3. Daniel was a true and loyal man. Loyal and true to God and to his responsibilities. Proverbs 20:6: “Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness; but a faithful man who can find?”
  4. Daniel’s beliefs were not contradicted by his actions. His beliefs guided his actions. He was blameless, meaning

they could not get a handle on his personal life. They found no evil to hang on to.

- B. Vs 5, Having thoroughly examined Daniel's personal life and finding no corruption, his detractors now turn to his relationship with Jehovah God as a means of bringing him down.
  - 1. It was evident that he knew his God personally. Is it evident that you are a believer?
  - 2. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Mt 5:16).
  - 3. Why would Daniel go to the lion's den? Because his light was shining and not hid. He was a witness.

### III. VSS 6-9, PERSECUTORS SECURE PRAYER BAN

- A. Vs 6, The conspirators gather to push forward their resolution. A resolution that is aimed at one old gentleman– Daniel. After properly addressing the king, they lay out their carefully crafted scheme.
- B. Vs 7, The hostile forces hide the real reason for their plan by wrapping it up in a proposed proclamation that would designate Darius as god for a month. Why only a month? This would be enough to get rid of Daniel.
- C. Vs 8, Not the word, "now." Sign it now; put your stamp of approval on it now! Hasty decisions are likely to get us in trouble.
- D. Vs 9, This decree would have grave consequences to the Jews if they refuse to obey it. Think of it– no prayer to Jehovah for a sick child, no prayer to Jehovah for an injured husband, no prayer for the backslidden to return. This is serious.
  - 1. Is this beginning to happen in America today? I believe it is in a big way.
  - 2. While we can pray openly, we best do it; and when we are commanded not to, what will we do? Will we dare to be a Daniel?
  - 3. Why would Daniel end up in the lion's den? Because he did right.

### IV. VS 10-11, PERSECUTED FOR INTEGRITY

- A. Vs 10, Daniel had a place where he prayed. His detractors knew it, and they also knew that he was not about to hide and pray. He would pray openly.

1. Jews in captivity were instructed to pray toward Jerusalem, to pray toward the promised land (II Chron 6:36-39). This continued until Christ gave new instructions on prayer (John 4:23-24).
  2. Daniel was obedient to the Word of God in Psalm 55:17. He prayed three times a day: "Evening and morning, and at noon, will I pray." Daniel's practice was to pray. He had been praying from a child on. He would keep on praying.
- B. Vs 11, Daniel was caught in the act! The act of praying. Mom and Dad, it would be good to get caught in the act of praying! It may also be that if we as parents pray, our prayers might catch up to a wayward one. Daniel's enemies knew they would catch him praying! According to Daniel 9:2, Daniel had the book of Jeremiah and he read it and knew what it said in 29:12.

#### V. VSS 12-15, PROSECUTED FOR INTEGRITY

- A. Vs 12, Darius is reminded of his decree by the princes and presidents. Could it be that he had not felt good about what he had decreed? If so, he was about to feel worse.
- B. Vs 13, Note the words, "that Daniel." Yes, that one! He does not regard you or your decree; he has broken the law. Jealousy causes men to do horrible things. These were jealous men.
- C. Vs 14, These men did not cause the king to get upset with Daniel; the king was upset with himself. The king tried to find a loophole in the decree so he could set Daniel free. No loophole could be found. The king was helpless; he could not save the old Jew he had come to love. If anything, he was upset that he had been set up and trapped.
- D. Vs 15, The enemies of Daniel assembled and demanded the king to cast Daniel in the lion's den. The law of the Medes and Persians was unchangeable. Daniel must be executed.
- E. Vs 16, The king sadly commanded, and Daniel is cast into the lion's den.

CONCLUSION: Why was he cast into the lion's den? Because of:

1. Jealousy
2. Hatred
3. Bitterness
4. Anger

5. Lust for power.
6. Resentment

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