

# **Daniel: Uncompromised before God**

Daniel 5:31-6:28

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Think with me for a moment; what it would be like to grow up in a nation whose roots were founded on the principals and laws of the LORD, where there have been some leaders who; the LORD would describe as “He did what was right in the sight of the LORD.” Leaders that sought to follow the LORD and HIS ways. Mixed with leaders who did things in disobedience to the LORD and also in outright rebellion; against the LORD.

Think with me again that as that Nation turns it’s back on GOD, that GOD raises up prophet after prophet; warning of coming judgement. At times there is perhaps genuine repentance and revival and a turning back to the LORD, at other times it may be only on the surface, but not affecting the heart.

As time goes on; the good leaders decline in succession and the evil leaders become worse and worse. What would it be like to come to a place in that nation, with a leader that has become corrupt to the point; that when GOD describes him; HE says, “He did evil in the sight of the LORD.” A nation that has degraded to the point, whose leader, GOD explains and condemns the sins of; seeking power for oppression; violence; shedding of innocent blood; sacrificing his own children to false gods. (Explain abortion vs passing the fire to Molech.)

This is not a description of an occasional disobedience, but practicing it, meaning a continual disobedience. Would you be able to live for the LORD in an nation like this?

As time goes on; in love the LORD raises up other nations and enemies to bring the nation back to him. Until finally at one point, the wickedness reaches the point that the LORD sends judgment and the nation is defeated by an enemy and as a young person you are taken from your homeland, stripped of your freedoms and put in servitude of a nation more idolatrous and wicked than the nation you were in. You are put in the service of a ruler, who serves different, false gods and practices that are an abomination to the true and living God.

I’m not talking about current events and headlines in our nation. These events are from the history of the Nation of Israel; but it does sound strangely similar to today.

We are going to look at an event that happened later in a man’s life, that we can look too, to show that it is possible to live for the LORD in a nation that has turned its back on HIM.

The title of my message is Daniel: Uncompromised for GOD. As we begin we will be looking at the historical account of Daniel in the Lion’s Den. Turn to Daniel 5:31 and we will be reading into Chapter 6.

## **DANIEL’S POSITION**

**Daniel 5:31-6:2**

<sup>31</sup> And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old. It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; <sup>2</sup> and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss.

As Chapter 5 Ends the historical events of the handwriting on the wall have just happened. Daniel 5:5. Belshazzar the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar has been killed when the Medio Persian empire conquered Babylon and Darius the Mede Here we have a change in the ruling government.

This event happened in 539 B.C. Daniel's involvement with this was to interpret the handwriting on the wall.

### **Daniel 5:25-28**

<sup>25</sup> "And this is the inscription that was written: <sup>[a]</sup>MENE, MENE, <sup>[a]</sup>TEKEL, <sup>[i]</sup>UPHARSIN. <sup>26</sup> This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; <sup>27</sup> TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; <sup>28</sup> PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians."<sup>[s]</sup>

At this point in 539 BC Daniel is much older and is approximately 80 years old. We know this from Daniel 1:1-2

*In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of <sup>[a]</sup>the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.*

This event happened in approximately 605 BC. Daniel is believed to have been around 15-16 years old at the time.

Back to Daniel 6:2 *and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss.* Daniel was elevated in this new kingdom to one of three governors over the satraps of the Medo-Persian Empire. The satraps were lesser rulers in Medo-Persia. It was Daniel's job to hold the satraps accountable to make sure the king would not suffer any economic loss. Daniel is in the position of the man of whom JESUS spoke of regarding the parable of the minas. See Luke 19:11-26.

### **DANIEL'S CHARACTER**

#### **Daniel 1:3**

*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.*

Here we see the consistency in Daniel's life going back to his youth and his service under Nebuchadnezzar. See Daniel 1:20 (ten times better in all matters of wisdom and understanding.)

### **THE ENEMIES OPPORTUNITY**

**Daniel 1:4-5**

*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. <sup>5</sup> Then these men save concerning the law of his God.”*

Even though Daniel was serving in a tyrannical regime; He wasn't serving the tyrannical leader. HE was serving GOD. I wish that would be said of me and my character that to find a charge or fault in me would be only concerning JESUS.

*So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: “King Darius, live forever! <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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 <sup>9</sup> does not alter.” <sup>9</sup> Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.*

This Decree was so that only Darius could be worshipped as God. This must have a big pump to his pride. Here the law of medes was restricted to not being able to be changed when signed into law.

**UNCOMPROMISING****Daniel 6:10**

*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.*

When Daniel knew the decree was signed it did not alter who he was and he served. The true and living GOD. Daniel had a choice to make. To obey GOD and disobey man or to disobey GOD and obey man. Daniel did not start to pray to defy the law. Daniel did not stop praying in fear of the new law. Daniel prayed as it was his CUSTOM, since his youth. Daniel 1:8 tells us: *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies.* Daniel purposed in his heart to not eat or drink of the things offered to idols early in his life. This commitment at a young age carried into his adult and late adult years.

We are living in unprecedented events in our nation's history. We too may soon face a choice where we need to decide who we are to obey. GOD or man.

**Romans 13:1**

*Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

GOD gives us government to make laws to keep their citizens safe. We are to obey the government until the point where they tell us to do something that GOD has forbidden; or to not do something that GOD commands. When that point comes, we need to be relying on the LORD for strength. This needs to be part of who we are in HIM, BEFORE that day comes. As JESUS said:

**Matthew 10:28**

And **do not fear** those **who kill the body** but **cannot kill the soul**. But rather **fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell**.

Daniel faced the same choice. His obedience to the LORD was going to cost him.

**THE TRAP****Daniel 6:11-15**

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

*<sup>12</sup> And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, 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 <sup>[b]</sup>does not alter."*

*<sup>13</sup> So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is <sup>[c]</sup>one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."*

*<sup>14</sup> And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he <sup>[d]</sup>labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.*

*<sup>15</sup> Then these men <sup>[e]</sup>approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed."*

These men KNEW Daniel's customs and KNEW his relationship with his GOD. They were watching Daniel and this was a trap. They "found" Daniel because they knew his character. This is similar to the trap the Pharisees laid out for JESUS, regarding the woman who was caught in the act of adultery in John 8:4. And also how the Pharisees found fault with JESUS for healing on the Sabbath in Luke 13: 14 and Luke 14:1. They watched to see if JESUS would heal on the Sabbath, because they knew that JESUS had compassion on sinners.

**THE LIONS DEN****Daniel 6:16-23**

*<sup>6</sup> So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you."*

*<sup>17</sup> Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.*

*<sup>18</sup> Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no <sup>[f]</sup>musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep <sup>[g]</sup>went from him. <sup>19</sup> Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. <sup>20</sup> And when he came to the den, he cried out with a <sup>[h]</sup>lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"*

<sup>21</sup> Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup> My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.” <sup>23</sup> Now the king was exceedingly 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 injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.

Darius could not change or alter the decree to save someone who became his friend from the Lions. Lions are very fierce creatures. (Share about the video of the Lion attacking the herd of buffalo and singling out one.) Our brothers and sisters during the Roman times were thrown to the lions. Lions would usually be kept at the point of starving so they would be ravenous when the Christians were thrown into the Colosseum. Darius was even strengthening Daniel’s faith in God. “Your God whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.” Do you believe that as well? Our GOD will deliver us. JESUS is coming for us soon. It’s interesting Darius had a sleepless night. How do you think Daniel slept that night? Well, the Bible may give us an answer in the Great Hall Of Faith Chapter Hebrews 11:33 *who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, **stopped the mouths of lions,***

I can see Daniel using one of the Lions as a pillow, can you? The greeting “O, king, live forever;” was a sign of respect. Who did Daniel give the credit to, for saving Him? GOD. We see a miracle here that the LORD shut the mouths of the lions. The next verses in Chapter 6 show a lion’s typical reaction.

#### **THE CONSEQUENCE FOR THE PLOT AGAINST DANIEL**

##### **Daniel 6:24**

<sup>24</sup> And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them **into** the den of lions—them, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.

Here are the normal actions of lions. The men who set the trap ending up being thrown into their own trap.

#### **DARIUS PRAISES THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD**

##### **Daniel 6:25-28**

<sup>25</sup> Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. <sup>26</sup> I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.

*For He is the living God,  
And steadfast forever;  
His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed,  
And His dominion shall endure to the end.*

<sup>27</sup> He delivers and rescues,

*And He works signs and wonders  
In heaven and on earth,  
Who has delivered Daniel from the [i]power of the lions.*

*<sup>28</sup> So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*

It would appear that Darius may have been saved and put his faith in Daniel's GOD; the GOD of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; whom we serve also. JESUS. I hope and pray so. I don't know what the future holds for the United States and Christians. It appears that there are storm clouds on the horizon. We may be entering a time of persecution in the United States that we have never seen before. We need to continually be drawing our strength from JESUS and comfort from HIS WORD. We need to be men and women of character and commitment like Daniel. For those who have never received JESUS and believed the gospel, here is your opportunity.

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