

DIAMONDS FROM DANIEL

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CHAPTER SIX

DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN

The presidents and princes against Daniel

These rivals of Machiavellian principles and practices determined to displace Daniel. The devil has always been against God's Daniels and has always sought their defeat and destruction. Only three things saved the day for Daniel:

- (1) His past life of peace and purity,
- (2) His present unswerving loyalty to God,
- (3) He believed in his God (Verses 4, 16, 20, 23).

The deliverance of Daniel was a distinct foreshadowing of the coming deliverance of the faithful remnant in the last days of the Antichrist.

Daniel was first

Daniel was placed at the helm of the ship of state. Chancellor of the Exchequer and Prime Minister he was indeed first. Daniel honored God and God exalted Daniel.

We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel

The enemies of Daniel thus witnessed to the unsullied purity of his life. Daniel's character was invulnerable and his conduct unimpeachable. Even in the minute details of his arduous, busy, state life, he was faultless. His daily life, which always provides the severest test of character, was exemplary, sweet, clean and pure.

There were probably other Daniels, but the integrity of THIS DANIEL was undoubted. Daniel's piety, holiness and integrity were his strong points. Never was a loftier tribute paid to mortal man than the enemies of Daniel paid to him that day. What a tremendous tribute to the trustworthiness of this public servant!

The religion of Daniel operated with such power as to exclude everything in his conduct which might furnish a handle with which he might be accused and justly hurt.

All the presidents

What a lie! Daniel himself was the chief president, and he was not consulted!

Save of thee O king

This decree, which stated that “**whosoever shall make a petition of any God or man for thirty days save of thee O King**” was a means of flattering the king, but the real sinister object was the destruction of Daniel.

His window being open

He did not open his windows and hence there was no presumption. He did not close his windows and hence there was no cowardice. Cornelius was a man that prayed in his own house (Acts 10:30) and Daniel went into his house, kneeled and prayed three times a day. Watch and pray.

He kneeled

This is the most proper gesture in prayer. It is most expressive of humility, reverence and submission to God and His will. Kneeling is a begging posture and we must all come to God as beggars. He kneeled.

The king . . . was sore displeased

Daniel’s preferment created jealousy. A cunning plan was devised and the king was deceived into signing the decree. Daniel’s enemies were satisfied that his doom was sealed.

When Darius discovered exactly what had been done he was sorely displeased with himself and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him, but all in vain. The law was passed and irrevocable. Darius labored all day to deliver Daniel, but the law stood squarely against him. Darius could find no way to deliver.

What a contrast with the God of the Bible. God’s holy law condemns man and condemns him justly, but God so loved the world that he found a way to save. Bless His name! God found a way to deliver!

The decree of Darius was a faint foreshadowing of another decree of a greater than Darius who in the end time will forbid any to worship anyone but himself.

The law of the Medes

The plotters got their law on the statute books, and then argued that because it was law, it must be enforced, right or wrong. That was the argument of those who crucified Jesus. “**We have a law**” said the plotters, “**and by our law He ought to die**” (John 19:7). Religious persecution has usually wrought its iniquities in the name of law.

Daniel refused to fuss, fight, fume or become furious. He calmly and quietly trusted in His God and made up his mind to obey God and an enlightened conscience. His own safety was his least concern. Selah!

The king sealed it with his own signet

This was done to tie the hands of the king so it might not be in his power to change the purpose concerning Daniel.

And with the signet of his lords

Neither the king nor parliament could help themselves once it was sealed. The decree was sealed not only with the signet of the sovereign ruler, but with the signet of his satraps so that it might not be in the power of either to save Daniel. The deliverance of Daniel must therefore be the sole work of Daniel's God.

Is thy God whom thou servest continually?

Whom thou servest continually. Continually. Most of us serve God by spasms—but WHOM THOU SERVEST CONTINUALLY . . .

- In times of affliction and adversity as well as in plenty and prosperity.
- In times of persecution as well as times of peace.
- In times of sickness and helplessness as well as in times of health.
- In times of pain and poverty as well as in times of peace and plenty.

“Whom thou servest continually.”

My God hath shut the lions' mouths

These sublime stories reveal the channels through which God flashed his light and truth upon kings and peoples.

Through Daniel and those who were associated with him kings and kingdoms saw the wisdom, power and presence of God. Separated from all the things in the midst of which they lived which were contrary to the will of God, inspired by living in fellowship with God and thus coming to understand the mind of God, enabled by divine power to proclaim the truth without fear or favour, these Holy Youths were instruments through whom God was able to make kings and courts feel the spell of his sovereign power.

The distracted king asked Daniel if his God was able to deliver him and Daniel quickly replied “My God is not only able but He has done it.”

To Daniel, God was a personal, friendly, powerful, and present God.

Before thee have I done no wrong

The disobedience of Daniel was not because of any contempt for the king, but because of his regard to the King of Kings. To disobey kings, presidents and governors may sometimes become the duty of Christians for the Christian's first duty is to Obey God and then honor the king (Acts 24:16).

Because he believed in his God

Here is given the key to Daniel's deliverance from the den of lions.

- Not because he was a special favorite of Deity.
- Not because he was one of God's pets.
- Not because of any election, foreordination or predestination, but because he believed, because he believed in HIS GOD.

- Enoch was translated because he believed in his God (Hebrews 11:5).
- Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain because he believed in His God (Hebrews 11:4).
- Noah built an ark to the saving of himself and his house because he believed in his God (Hebrews 11:7).
- Abraham went out, not knowing whither he went because he believed in his God (Hebrews 11:8).
- Joseph gave commandment concerning his bones because he believed in his God (Hebrews 11:22).
- Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, because he believed in his God,
- Daniel . . . stopped the mouths of lions because he believed in his God. (Hebrews 11:32-33).

Cast them into the den of lions

It does not pay to fight against God or seek the hurt of God's people. Daniel's accusers were cast into the den of lions and destroyed. Destruction is awaiting all who falsely accuse the people of God.

The lions brake all their bones

Here is another example of democratic savagery and cruelty. The Medes and Persians were undoubtedly more socialistic and democratic than the Babylonians, but they were as savage, fierce and cruel as the most ultra-monarchists and plutocrats. Whether Monarchies or Democracies, republicans or socialists, they are all the same at heart. Intrigue, jealousy, murder, envy, hatred of God and holiness, oppression and cruelty are characteristic of Gentile rule. Christ is earth's rightful king and theocracy the only beneficent government.

Brake all their bones in pieces

Daniel was unharmed, but before his accusers touched the floor of the den the hungry lions pounced upon them and smashed their bones in pieces. Here is a plain proof if such is needed that their not devouring Daniel was not through fulness or want of appetite which the higher critics would undoubtedly have affirmed but for this record. The triumph of the wicked is short. They digged a pit for Daniel and they themselves were flung into it and destroyed. They erected a gallows upon which they perished. This is the inevitable end of all enemies of God and his saints. It does not pay to seek the hurt of God's people.

So this Daniel prospered

There may have been other Daniels who did less praying and praising, and who in turn escaped the persistent persecutions of their enemies, but this Daniel prayed, this Daniel praised, this Daniel persistently served God. This Daniel was persecuted; this Daniel Was protected, preserved, preferred and prospered.

- (1) *He prayed.* “**He kneeled and prayed three times a day.**”
- (2) *He praised,* “**and gave thanks.**”
- (3) *He was persistent* “**whom thou servest continually.**”
- (4) *He was persecuted.* “**That Daniel.**”
- (5) *He was protected* “**Shut the lions mouths.**”
- (6) *He was preferred* “**This Daniel was preferred.**”
- (7) *He prospered* “**So this Daniel prospered.**”

Compare “**THAT Daniel**” of 6:13 with “**THIS Daniel**” of 6:28.

Cyrus the Persian

With the rise of Cyrus there came into power the second of the five prophesied world empires. Cyrus was prophetically named more than a hundred years before he was born (Isaiah 44:28, 45:1-4).

The five prophesied world empires:

- (1) Babylon
- (2) Medes and Persians
- (3) Greece
- (4) Rome
- (5) Christ's Millennial kingdom.

~ end of chapter 6 ~

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