

DANIEL 6:1-12

Study by Glenn Palmer

Daniel 6:1

1. **It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom**
 - a. Cyrus captures Babylon in 539 BC, and dies in 530 BC.
 - b. Darius the Mede is Ugbaru (see last week's lesson) and acts as regent
 - c. Cambyses II rules from 530-522 BC.
 - d. Darius the Great or Darius Hystapes reigns from 522-484 BC.
 - e. Xerxes or Ahasueras rules from 486-464 BC, thus about 50 years after Cyrus's captures of Babylon. Xerxes is the time of Esther.
 - f. In Esther 1:1 how many provinces are there? *127 provinces*
 - g. But provinces are not ruled by satraps.
 - h. Herodotus (III:89 ff) says that Darius the Great had 20 satrapies, then 21, 23, and finally 29 satrapies.
 - i. So why does the Daniel write that there are 120 satraps? Satrap means "Kingdom protectors." Cyrus had just conquered the vast majority of the known world in about 15 years.
 - j. Possible solution:
 - 1.) The satraps (kingdom protectors) were sent out to establish order and to strengthen the kingdom after the swift conquest. For example, Darius said: "There was a man named Dadrsis by name, a Persian, my subject, satrap in Bactria, him did I send, etc." Thus, Darius clearly sent a satrap somewhere to solve a problem.
 - 2.) The 120 satraps were a temporary organization to organize the empire. Later, as the kingdom became more established, not as many satraps were required as the kingdom was established. Thus, they were reduced to twenty satraps.

Practical Application: At Judgement Day, will Jesus Christ say "Well done thou good and faithful kingdom protector (satrap)? You have been in charge of one satrap. Now I will make you in charge of many satraps?" How well do we advance the Kingdom of God?

Daniel 6:2

2. What is Daniel's position? *Head of the three over the 120*
3. What was the king's fear? *Loss of money*

Practical Application: What does this teach us about trust and delegation of authority? We can't always be everywhere and do everything. We need to trust and delegate authority.

Practical Application: Describe Jesus Christ fellowship

Who was Christ's very close friend? <i>John</i>	John 13:23
Who was in Christ's next circle? <i>Peter, James, and John</i>	Luke 9:28
Who was in Christ's next circle? <i>The 12 apostles</i>	Luke 6:13
Who was in Christ's next circle? <i>The 70/72 disciples</i>	Luke 10:1

Practical Application: Write down or draw your circle of friendships.

Daniel 6:3-4

4. How well did Daniel perform his work? *Exceptional qualities; not corrupt*
5. Why did the satraps accuse Daniel? Bible does not say, but thoughts?
 - a. *Envious that a foreigner was placed in charge of the kingdom - cf. 13*
 - b. *They wanted to enrich themselves at the king's expense. The king was fearful of financial loss (vs. 2). With Daniel in charge, they could not cook the books.*
6. John Calvin: "We shall find no better defense against the envious and the slanderous than to conduct ourselves righteously and innocently."
7. I Peter 3:16: *But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

Practical Application: *Can what was written of Daniel be said of us? Christians used to have excellent reputations as hard workers. Calvinist work ethic is how Christians used to be described. Do we still have that same reputation today? Why or why not?*

They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

Practical Application: *May that be our epitaph!*

Daniel 6:5

Practical Application: *Is there enough evidence to convict us of being a Christian? How well does our tongue reflect that we work for the King? How well does our language reflect that we work for the King? How well does our actions show that we work for the King?*

Daniel 6:6 Went as a group.

8. Daniel's three friends may have died or are in different provinces. Thus, they target Daniel alone.

Daniel 6:7 who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days

9. Why did Darius fall for such a move?
 - a. Since Cyrus had just conquered Babylon, there would be unity for the kingdom. So politically, this was a smart move. Later in the Roman empire, the citizens could worship any god they wanted as long as they offered some incense and said *Kyrios Kaisar* "Caesar is Lord." "Romans were tolerant."¹
 - b. Power trip - everyone has to make petitions to me!!
10. Why did the men select prayer as the trap vice some other religious test? *Because prayer is central to a Christian's life.*

Practical Application: *Could we go without praying in public for 30 days?*

Daniel 6:8 Thrown into the lion's den

11. High stakes game. Not censured, not removed from power, but killed.

¹ Boice, 69.

Daniel 6:8-9 Cannot be altered . . . cannot be annulled

12. Esther 1:19: *let him issue a royal decree, and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media, which can not be repealed*
 13. Esther 8:8: *Now write another decree in the king's name . . . and seal it with a signet ring- for no document written in the king's name and sealed with his ring can be revoked.*
- Note that the king could not revoke the first law by Haman, but could only issue a second law.
14. Daniel 6:12 - last sentence.
 15. Daniel 6:15
 16. Diodorus Siculous (Greek historian @ Julius Caesar's time) writes xvii, 30 about Darius III after condemning Charidemos to death: "immediately he repented and blamed himself, as having greatly erred; but it was not possible to undo what was done by royal authority."

Practical Application: *Whose words will never pass away?*

Matthew 24:35: *Christ's*

Practical Application: *Is there any advantage in laws that don't change frequently?*

Why does John Calvin write "Hence, constancy is praiseworthy in kings and their edicts, if only they are preceded by prudence and equity."?

Give two examples where unchanging laws are good:

- a. *for business need to know if capital gains are going to be there for valid every year*
- b. *loans - what would happen if interest rates kept changing week to week*

Practical Application: *Before we enter into deliberations and make deals, don't be a hasty bear.*

Think of major purchases, or life career decisions, or whom you marry. "Think before you push" is what our next door neighbor said when he taught us how to play checkers.

Daniel 6:10

17. What is Daniel's response? *He goes home and prays*
18. Why does he pray towards Jerusalem? *John Calvin: "A stimulus to his fervor in prayer." He was probably praying for the return of the people to Jerusalem.*
19. Do you find this astonishing that he prays when he knows he will be put to death?

Practical Application: *When troubles come because of our belief in God, what will we do?*

Even if it means death?

20. What type of prayer does Daniel pray in verse 10? *Prayer of thanksgiving.*
21. Does this strike you as odd? *Prayer of thanksgiving? Not asking God for help?*
22. How often does Daniel pray? *Three times a day.* See vs. 13.

Practical Application: *What is the advantage of having fixed times for prayer?*

John Calvin: "Unless we fix certain hours in the day for prayer, it easily slips from our memory."

23. John Calvin on prayer: "Since, therefore, **prayer consists the chief part of our adoration and worship to God**, it was certainly a matter of not slight moment when the king forbade any one to pray to God; it was a gross and manifest denial of piety. . . He extracts from everyone a denial of God."

Practical Application: Do you agree with Calvin that “prayer consists the chief part of our adoration and worship to God”?

Practical Application: Daniel at 80 gets on his knees to pray! I don't get on my knees to pray. I pray mostly lying on my bed. But should I get on my knees to pray? What advantage is there?

- a. reminds us that we cannot stand before God
- b. symbol of humility, act of respect. Why does a man get on his knees to propose?

Daniel 6:11

24. What type of prayer is Daniel praying in verse 11? *“Praying and asking God for help.”*

25. Why did Daniel insist on praying in public? Could he not have prayed with the window closed? Does it make that much of a difference: window closed or window open? Would not God have heard his prayer with a closed window? *Window closed or window open, does not make a difference for God hearing his prayer. It does make a difference because this is a matter of faith.*

Could Daniel have avoided the conflict, as after all, it was only for thirty days? Be careful of trends.

26. How many people were effected by this degree? *Just Daniel*

Practical Application: When can we disobey the law?

Are we willing to do right all the time?

The slippery slope: Ravi Zacharias tells the story of a guy in the train. He asks a woman if she will make love with him for a million dollars. After much thought and hesitation, she says yes. Then he hands her a \$50 bill. She protests “You said a million dollars.” He says, “We already established what type of woman you are. Now we are just negotiating the price.

As a rental owner, can I chose not to rent my house to an unmarried couple? Yes, because it goes against my religious belief.

As a rental owner, can I deny renting a house to two homosexuals? Yes, because it goes against my religious belief.

What happens if they sue me?

Will this happen in America?

Daniel 6:12 The degree stands

27. Do they start off accusing Daniel? *No they discuss the fact that the degree stands. The emphasis is on the royal authority.*