

Series: Stand Fast in the Lord

IS THY GOD ABLE TO DELIVER THEE DANIEL 6

Text: Daniel 6:20

Daniel 6:20

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?

Introduction:

At this time it is thought that Daniel was in his eighties or nineties.

He is still going to be tested regarding his consecration to God.

Was his consecration a matter of convenient circumstances, or was it a matter of choice regardless of the circumstances?

Sadly most people's consecration is based on convenience.

We will consider how that Daniel's consecration passed the test.

He wasn't consecrated because it was convenient but because it was right.

Note:

Sermon Content:

1. DANIEL'S POSITION (VS. 1-3)

Daniel 6:1-3

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 three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

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.

Daniel had proven himself to be trustworthy and a man with great character.

Darius had set over the kingdom 120 princes and over the princes three presidents who Daniel was first.

Each of these presidents was over 40 princes.

The reason that Daniel was the first of the presidents is found in verse 3:

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.***

Daniel had good character in the midst of a wicked people.

The King was looking for someone he could trust.

Note secondly:

2. DANIEL'S PERIL (VS. 4-9)

Daniel 6:4-9

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. 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.

Understand:

Often people with character are the object of envy by those without it.

Notice:

A. The President's Envy (vs. 4)

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.

These presidents looked for a fault or an occasion that Daniel messed up but they couldn't find any.

Understand:

There are always people seeking to find fault in others, especially, those who profess they are a Christian.

If you want to know how a Christian is to live or conduct themselves; just ask someone who is not a Christian and they will be quick to tell you.

We not only see the president envy but also:

B. The Presidents Examination

Daniel 6:4-5

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. 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.

They tried to find fault with Daniel's

- Ability
- Integrity
- Fidelity
- Devotion

But again they found no flaw in any of these areas.

Thought:

If our Ability, Integrity, Fidelity, or Devotion were examined would there be any flaws or faults found?

We not only see the president envy and examination but also:

C. The Presidents Evilness

Daniel 6:6-9

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.

Their evilness involved flattery, and foolishness to get the king to sign a decree.

The flattery was seen in the idea that the king would sought as God for the petitions of the people.

The foolishness is that no prayer take place to the God of Heaven for 30 days.

Thought:

Often our ego causes us to make some foolish decisions.

Understand:

We are nothing without God and we can do nothing without God.

To think that we can we have deceived ourselves.

This leads us to consider:

3. DANIEL'S PRAYER (VS. 10-11)

Daniel 6:10-11

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

Understand:

This wasn't something that Daniel did just to make a statement this was something that Daniel had consistently done.

Notice:

A. The Circumstances of Daniel

Daniel know what it would cost to take a stand for God.

Understand:

There is a cost for standing fast faithfully.

The Lord made this clear in Luke 14:

Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, ²⁶ If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? ²⁹ Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, ³⁰ Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

We note not only the Circumstances of Daniel but also:

B. The Character of Daniel

Daniel wasn't a secret disciple.

See Daniel 6:10:

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 aforesaid.*

Understand:

It's easy to be a Christian at church, but it's completely different at work or school or even at home.

Daniel demonstrated consistent character even when the circumstances were challenging.

We too need to be people with consistent character even when the circumstances are challenging.

We have considered Daniel's Position, Peril, and Prayer.

Let's look at:

4. DANIEL'S PERSECUTION (VS. 11-17)

Notice:

A. The Charge (vs. 11-13)

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.

These wicked men laid a trap and caught Daniel in it.

They know that he prayed three times a day.

Notice not only the charge but also:

B. The Commandment (vs. 14-15)

Daniel 6:14-15

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. 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.

When the king signed the decree it had no loopholes.

His own law made him helpless in freeing Daniel.

He labored all day trying to find an out for Daniel but found none.

Note not only the Charge and the Commandment but also:

C. The Commitment (vs. 16-17)

Daniel 6:16-17

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. ¹⁷ And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

These men were committed to putting Daniel to death.

The King was assured that Daniel would be delivered.

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.***

That leads us to consider:

5. DANIEL'S PRESERVATION (VS. 18-23)

Daniel 6:18-23

¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

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? 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. 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.

Notice:

A. The Concern of the King

- He fasted
- No music was played
- He couldn't sleep
- He went very early to the lion's den to check on Daniel

Note not only the Concern of the King but also:

B. The Care of the Lord (vs. 21-22)

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.*

Understand:

God is the God of the impossible.

God brought deliverance to Daniel.

Note: 2 Peter 2:9 and Psalms 91:2-11

2 Peter 2:9

⁹ The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Psalm 91:2-11

² I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. ³ Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. ⁴ He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. ⁵ Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; ⁶ Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. ⁷ A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. ⁸ Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. ⁹ Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; ¹⁰ There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. ¹¹ For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

We should thank God for His care for His own.

We consider one final thought:

6. DANIEL'S PROSPERITY (VS. 26-28)

Daniel 6:26-28

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.

Notice:

A. The Decree (vs 26-27)

Daniel 6:26-27

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.

What an amazing decree this second decree was.

Notice also:

B. The Delegation (vs. 28)

Daniel 6:28

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

Daniel prospered during the reign of these two kings.

Close:

You say how was it possible for Daniel to demonstrate such consecration and steadfastness?

How was he able to stand fast?

Remember what we read of him back in Daniel 1:

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.

If we are going to stand fast in the Lord we must purpose in our heart to do so.