

Daniel Chapter 6 – Part 1

The Accusers and the Accused



The PRAYER of DANIEL

Past > **Present** > **Future**



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The Great Controversy between God and
Satan is primarily over

“WORSHIP”

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark **Sanctuary**



**And let them
make me a
sanctuary;
that I may dwell
among them.**

– Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Hydrotherapy: Contrast Therapy

How does contrast bath therapy work? (Seek Medical Advice)

Depending on tolerance for extreme temperatures, immersing your body first in hot water and then in an icy cold bath may sound either invigorating or torturous. The practice has many fans, including athletes who say it gets them back in the game faster.

1. The key is in the rapid changes produced in the [circulatory system](#) when you go from very warm water to very cold water.
2. When you submerge part or all of your body in cold water, small blood vessels called capillaries respond to the cold by getting smaller. This is known as [vasoconstriction](#).
3. When you immerse in warm water, the opposite happens. Your blood vessels open up. This is known as [vasodilation](#).
 - Studies show that cold water causes your heart rate to speed up, while hot water slows it down.

So, how do these circulatory changes help you?

1. Reduces fatigue: A 2017 research found that contrast baths helped players recover fatigue 24-48 hours after the game.
2. Decreases muscle soreness: Research on both DOMS & muscle weakness after workouts that contrast bath therapy improved both
3. Removes excess lactic acid: In 2007 studies show that contrast bath therapy can also help decrease the lactic acid in your body.

Use CONTRAST HYDROTHERAPY to Treat SWOLLEN FEET



1
Soak your feet in warm water for about 3 to 4 minutes.

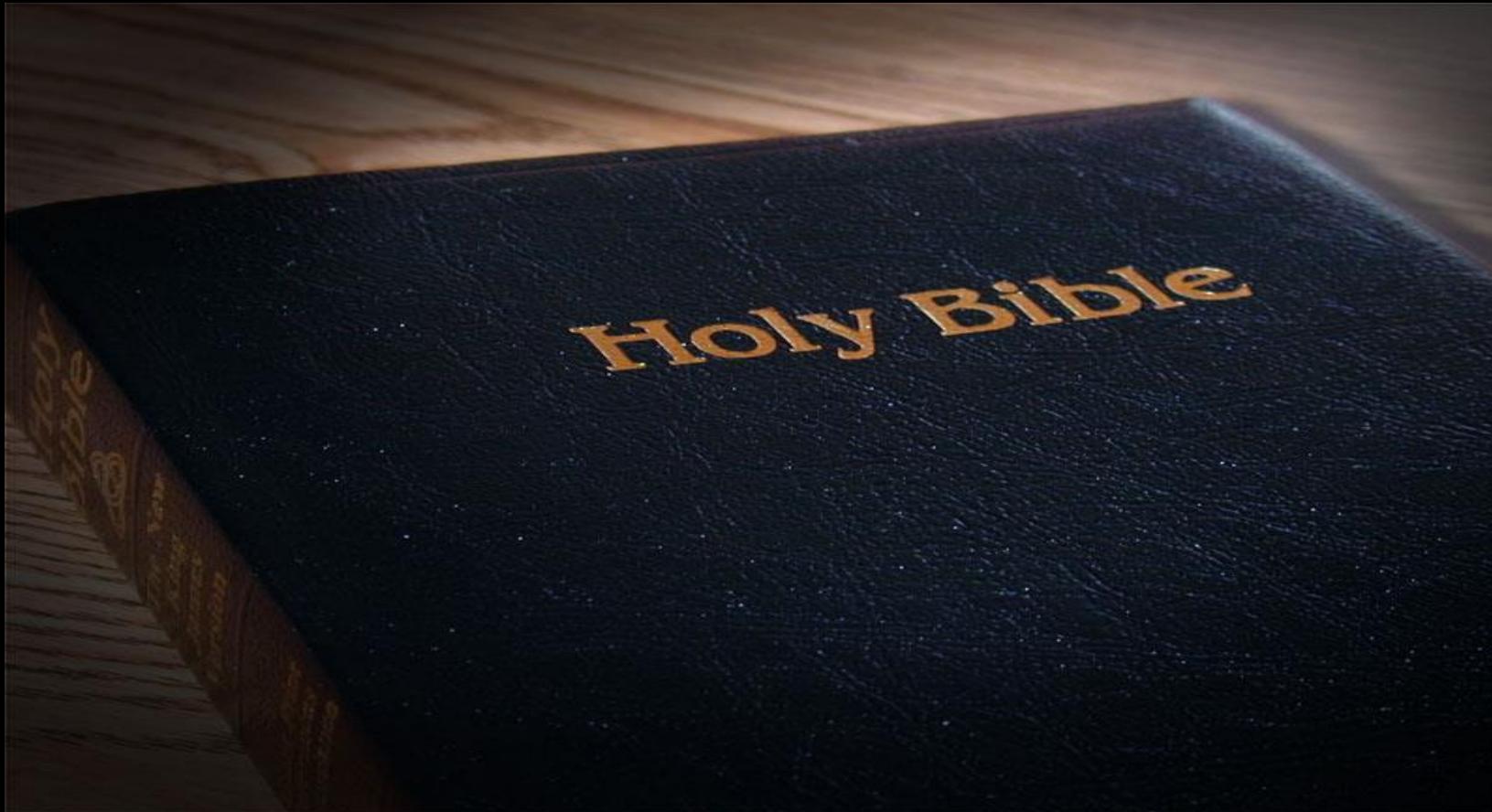
2
Immediately put your feet in cold water for about 1 minute.



Continue alternating for 15 to 20 minutes.



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



Yes we Can!

WARNING!

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:15-16 KJV



Daniel Chapter 6 – Part 1 The Accusers and the Accused



The PRAYER of DANIEL

Past > Present > Future



Introduction

Daniel 4 and 5 contrasted two men who made two very different decisions. After the Lord patiently gave Nebuchadnezzar many opportunities to change his life, he finally acknowledged God and gave a testimony of his conversion in chapter 4. Unlike his grandfather, Belshazzar mocked and blasphemed God, using the holy sanctuary vessels to celebrate his pagan gods as recorded in Daniel 5.

Even though he knew about his grandfather's change of heart and Daniel's holy life, Belshazzar still rejected the true God. Babylon's last night illustrated a pleasure-seeking and selfish attitude and the spirit of rebellion. Belshazzar lost his last chance to repent; he died at war with God and shackled by the heavy chains of his un-repented sins.



Daniel 4:28-37

“The Beauty of Repentance and the Beast of Pride”

1. The king's humiliation and fall (v.28-33)
2. The king's restoration and witness (v.34-37)

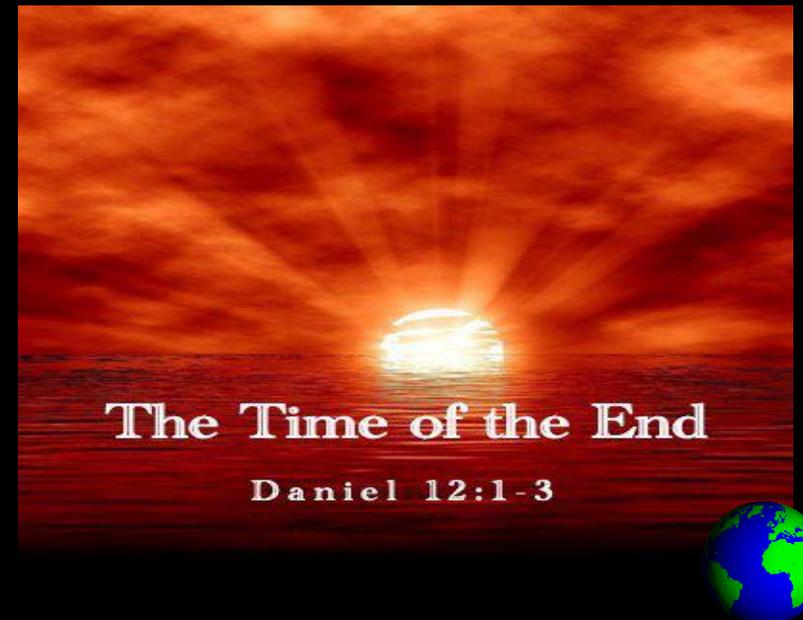


Introduction (cont'd)

The lives of these men find a parallel in the end-time issues. God's last-day remnant people have surrendered to Him and keep His Ten Commandments, while the wicked, like Belshazzar, profane the holy things of God by placing them in a pagan setting. Like Daniel, God's people are delivered, while Spiritual Babylon falls, and receives the seven last plagues and eventually hell fire.

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." - Daniel 12:1

God's judgments fell upon the proud kingdom of Babylon, because of their terrible blasphemies against the Most High. This brought about their long-prophesied doom. So at the end-time, spiritual Babylon will also be destroyed, because of their terrible blasphemies against the God of Heaven.



Introduction (cont'd)

As we saw in our last study, the last two verses of **Daniel chapter 5**, ancient Babylon fell and was conquered by the Medo-Persian army.

Chapter 6 introduces **Darius the Mede** as the ruler of Medo-Persia, while **Cyrus** continued on conquering lands for the next couple of years.

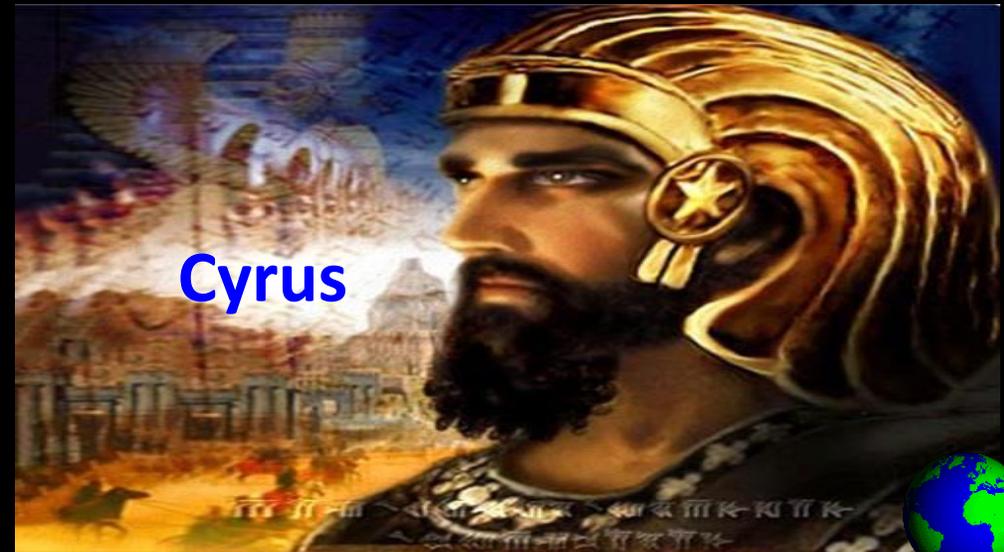
The Persian became the stronger than the Medians, therefore taking over leadership with Cyrus being the king. In the setting of chapter 6 Daniel is now in his early eighties.

Freedom of conscience and religious liberty are constantly threatened in this world. Again and again there are persecution, imprisonment, and killing of people for their religious convictions.

Daniel 6 describes such a situation. This chapter is the last chapter in the historical part of the book of Daniel; it deals with the time of the Medes and Persians. From **chapter 7** on we will encounter the prophetic part of the book.



Darius



Cyrus

Introduction (cont'd)

The events of this chapter occurred sometime between 539 and 537 BC.

Daniel was around 84 years old at this time.

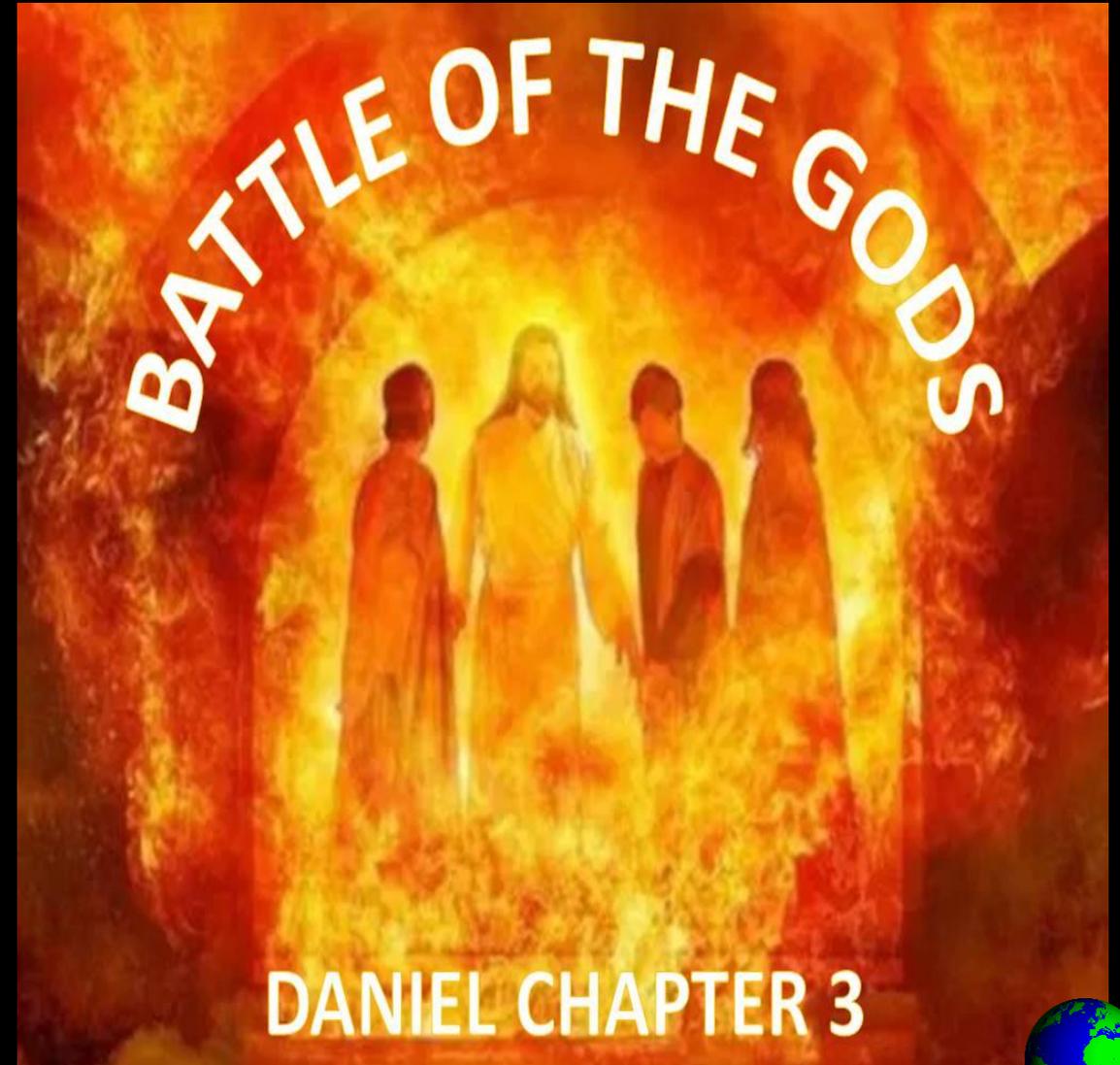
There is a close relationship between Daniel 3 and Daniel 6. In Daniel 3 King Nebuchadnezzar attempted to impose false worship, but in Daniel 6 King Darius attempted to forbid true worship.

Thus they both established and forbade the free exercise of religion.

Daniel was absent in the experience of Daniel 3. We do not know where he was at that time. Some think that he might have been ill, that the king purposely told him to stay away or that he was on some mission.

* Only God knows why.

However, the experience of Daniel 6 shows that if Daniel had been there, he would have chosen to be faithful.



Daniel 6:1-3 - Daniel lifted up

Daniel 6:1 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.

After the Medo-Persians take over Babylon, Darius the Mede recognizes the wisdom of Daniel and invites him to be part of the new government.

The aging prophet so excels at his public duties that the new king appoints him a chief administrator of the whole Medo-Persian government.



Examining the Verses...

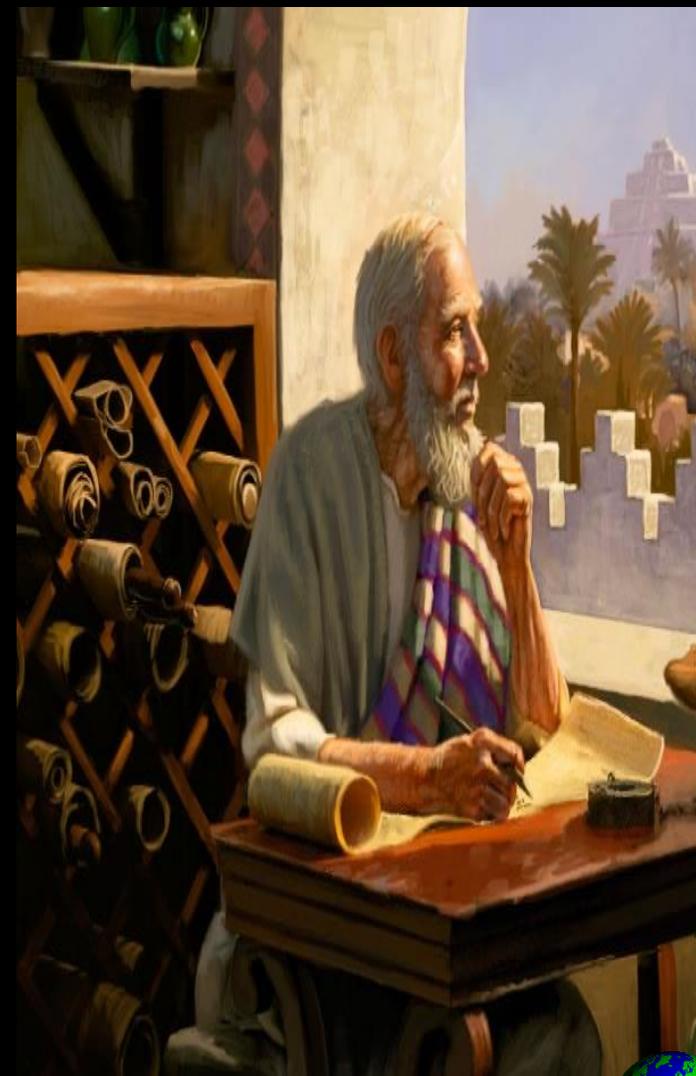
Darius - We have just seen in the previous chapter the overthrow of Babylon by the Medes and Persians. **Darius was the first king ruling for only two years.** During this time, 538 - 536 B.C., the events of this chapter took place.

Over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes - It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 princes, obviously one prince per province of the Medo-Persian kingdom. It wasn't until the victories of Cambyses and Darius Hystaspes that the kingdom was enlarged to 127 provinces as in the time of Esther. (Esther 1:1)

Over these three presidents - Over these princes was placed three presidents, thus the princes were answerable to the presidents.

Daniel was first - Daniel was placed above all of them as he was the first president.

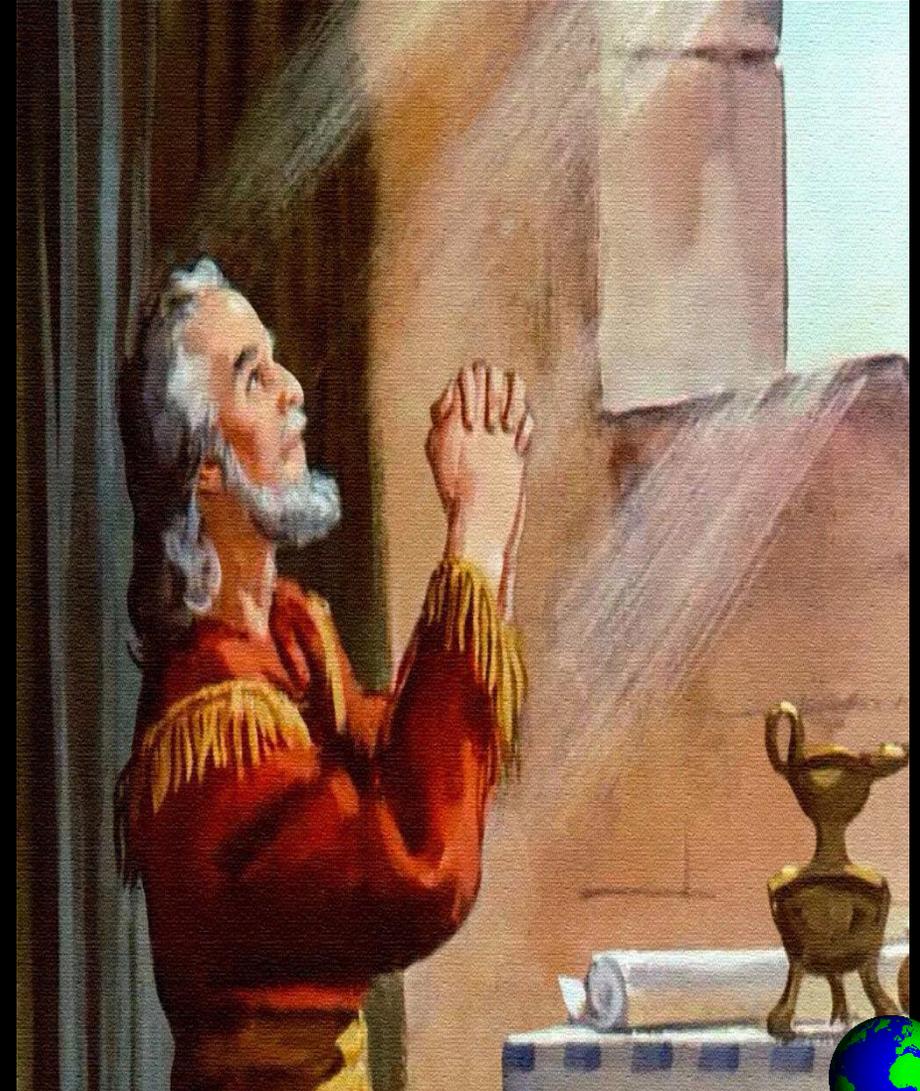
Princes might give accounts unto them... - These princes of the provinces were to give accounts unto the three presidents so the king would have no damage or loss of revenue. This shows to us the qualities the king must have seen in Daniel, for he would have to have been honest, faithful, and have strict integrity in business matters for the king to entrust to him such a position.



Examining the Verses (*cont'd*)...

Daniel was preferred above - The reason why Daniel was preferred above the other presidents and princes is given to us here. In him was an excellent spirit, thus the king set him over the whole realm for he saw this in him. We do not need to expand on this matter as we have seen the type of character that Daniel has in previous chapters.

That the king should have no damage - The role of the princes was to enforce the Medo-Persian policies established by the king and to collect taxes. Unless honest accounting of the tax collections was established, the collectors could embezzle and line their own pockets, damaging the financial bottom-line of the king. The presidents were to oversee all the recordkeeping of the treasury, but the king gave Daniel the highest position over them all. Daniel's reputation of unswerving integrity, loyalty, and devotion to right-doing was well known.



Daniel recognised by the next Empire

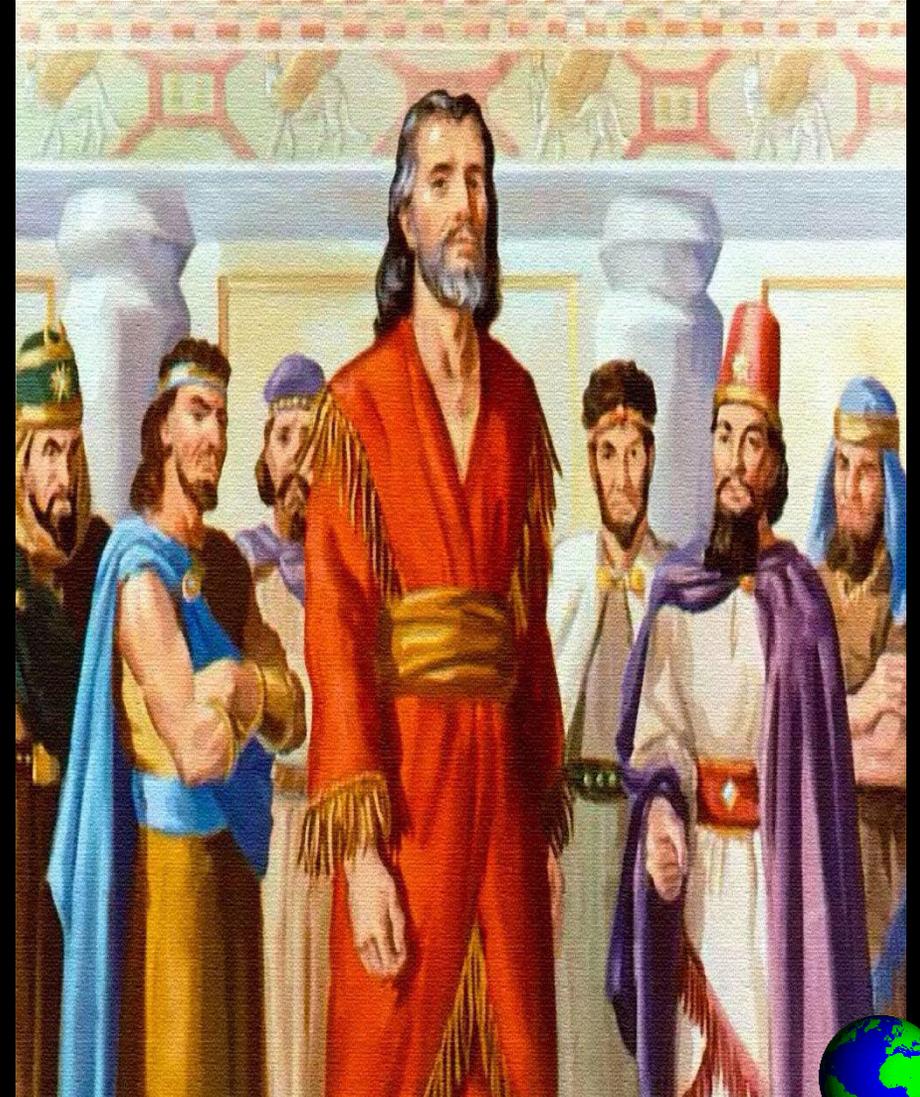
When Cyrus overthrew the Babylonian Empire, he and Darius immediately reorganized the government. They set up princes over the land and three presidents to oversee the princes. Daniel was made chief of the presidents; thus he had dominion over the other two presidents and all the princes. Perhaps he was even next in command to Darius.

Key Point:

Daniel didn't wear a cloak of religion that he could slip on and off when it proved convenient. He was no hypocrite. His commitment to God revealed a genuine life of constant devotion.

Like Daniel, Christians at the end of time will need to demonstrate this kind of commitment. True religion is more than just a dry profession or mere pretense. It is more than a temporary garment. It must be the fabric of the consecrated life.

Let's look at a promise provided by God through the prophet Ezekiel, a contemporary of Daniel.



Daniel's God is willing to do the same

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

This promise still applies today. Paul, in the New Testament, also referred to this inner change that takes place when God is given control of our lives:

2 Corinthians 5:17 - *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*



Excellent spirit found in Daniel

Under the Medes and Persians Daniel quickly rose high in rank.

What could the phrase “because an excellent spirit was in him” mean?

- **Wisdom, insight, knowledge.**
- **Faithfulness and reliability.**
- **Excellent administration and wise leadership.**
- **Knowledge of God and knowledge of human nature.**

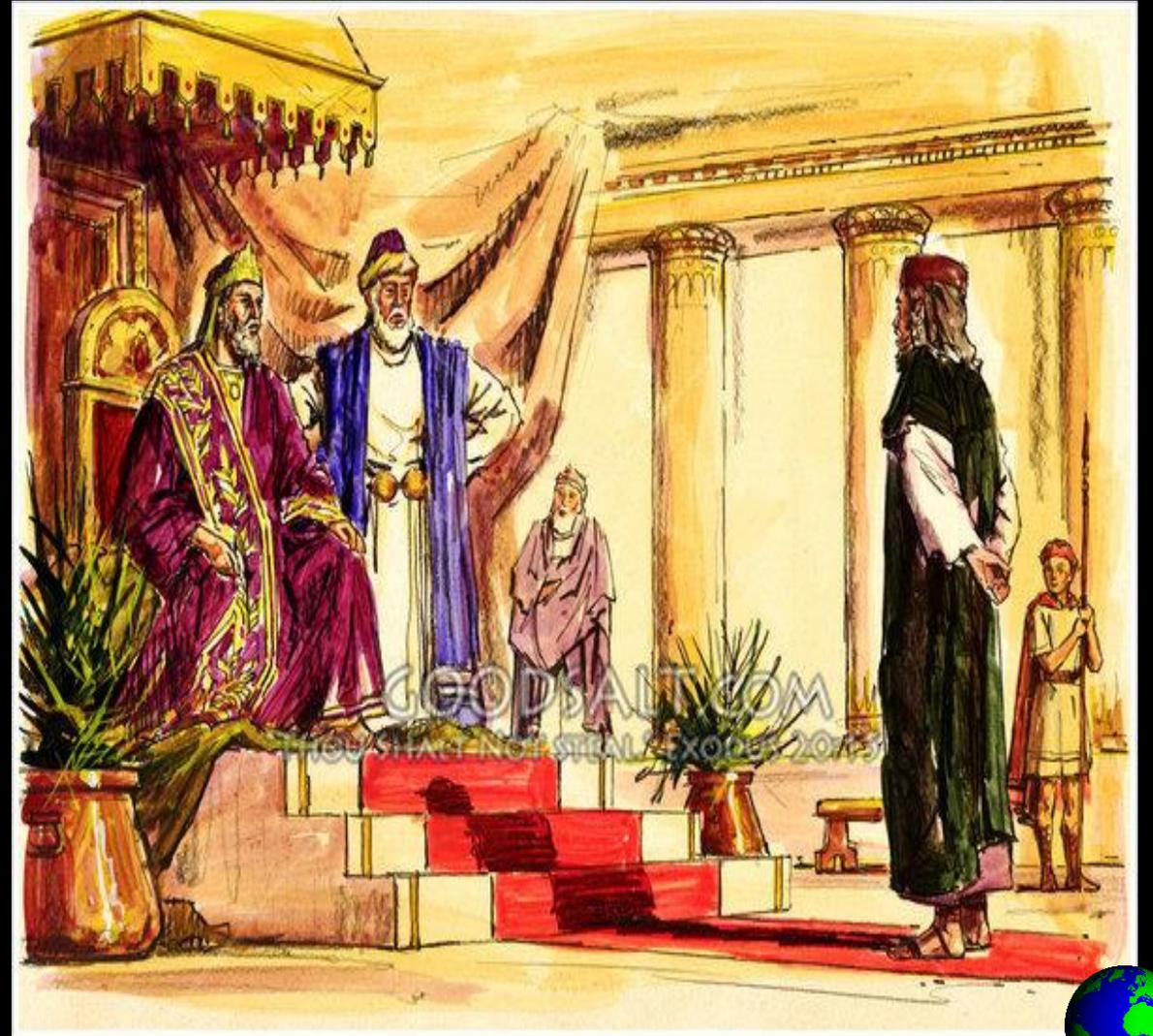
Daniel was full of the Holy Spirit (Daniel 6:3; see also Daniel 4:8, 9; 5:12, 14).

Daniel had the Spirit of Prophecy.



Dare to be a Daniel...

Daniel was true, noble, and generous. While he was anxious to be at peace with all men, he would not permit any power to turn him aside from the path of duty. He was willing to obey those who had rule over him, as far as he could do so consistently with truth and righteousness; but kings and decrees could not make him swerve from his allegiance to the King of kings. Daniel was but eighteen years old when brought into a heathen court in service to the king of Babylon, and because of his youth his noble resistance of wrong and his steadfast adherence to the right are the more admirable. His noble example should bring strength to the tried and tempted, even at the present day. — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 570.



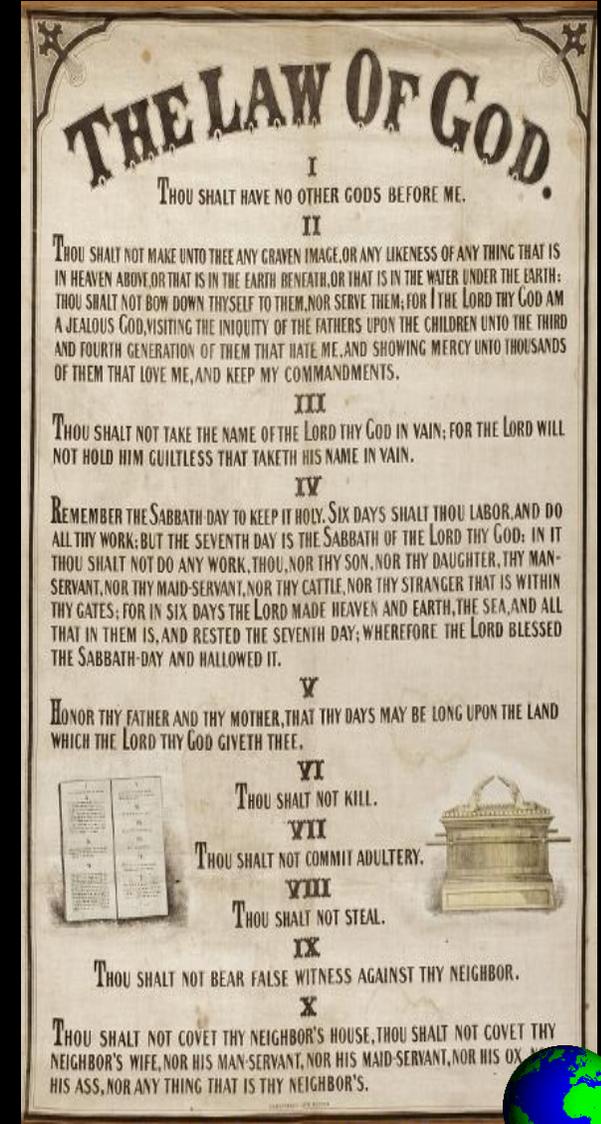
Daniel 6:4-5 - Jealous about Daniel

Daniel 6:4 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.

As the chapter unfolds, Daniel faces the result of what could rightly be called the first sin — that of jealousy. Yet, before the story ends, we can see that Daniel is faithful, not only to his secular duties under the Medo-Persians, but most important to His God. And we can be sure that, to a great degree, his faithfulness to God directly impacts his faithfulness in these other areas as well.

Daniel's experience with persecution serves as a paradigm for God's people in the time of the end. The story does not imply that God's people will be spared from trials and suffering. What it does guarantee is that, in the conflict with evil, good will ultimately win out, and God ultimately will vindicate His people.



Examining the verses...

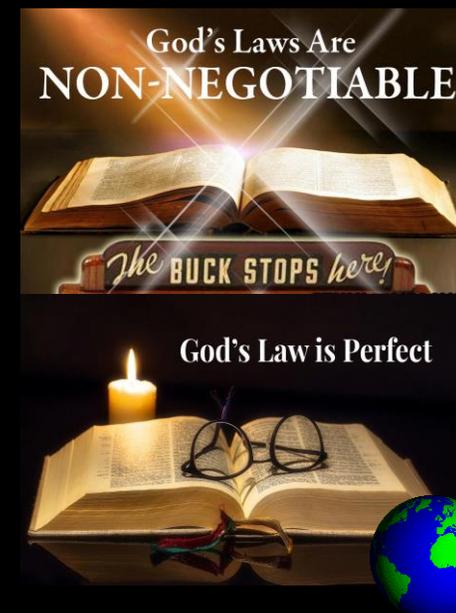
Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against... - It was at this time, when Daniel was promoted above them, their jealousy peaked. So they sought to find a fault in his dealings with the affairs of the kingdom. This was to try and bring him down from his exalted position by the king.

But they could find none occasion nor fault - There was not a single mistake or unfaithfulness found in his work, not the slightest discrepancy, neither was there any error or fault found in his person. His dealings with the kingdoms affairs were perfect and his conduct was blameless. *Could this be said of us?

We are instructed in Ecclesiastes 9:10 that "whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might", and 1 Corinthians 10:31 "whether ye eat or drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

Against him concerning the law of his God - They realized that they were not going to find any occasion against Daniel except in one area. This was to make a law which was contrary to the law of Daniel's God and enforce it. They themselves could see that he was faithful in serving his God. We see this situation also at the end of time when laws are made contrary to God's and are enforced being punishable by death. (Revelation 13:8, 12, 14-15)

• Daniel's faithfulness is being tested yet again.



Daniel is Blameless...

Daniel's administrative abilities impress the king but provoke the jealousy of other officers. Thus, they conspired to get rid of him by accusing him of corruption. **But as much as they search, they find no fault in Daniel's administration.** *"They could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him"* (Daniel 6:4). The Aramaic word translated as "faithful" can also be translated as "trustworthy".

Daniel is blameless; there is nothing the officers can do to raise an accusation against him. However, they also perceive how faithful Daniel is to His God and how obedient he is to his God's law. So they soon realize that in order to frame Daniel, they will have to produce a situation in which Daniel will be faced with the dilemma of obeying either God's law or the law of the empire. From what the officers have learned about Daniel, they are absolutely convinced that under the right conditions he will side with his God's law over the empire's.

*** What a testimony to Daniel's faithfulness!**

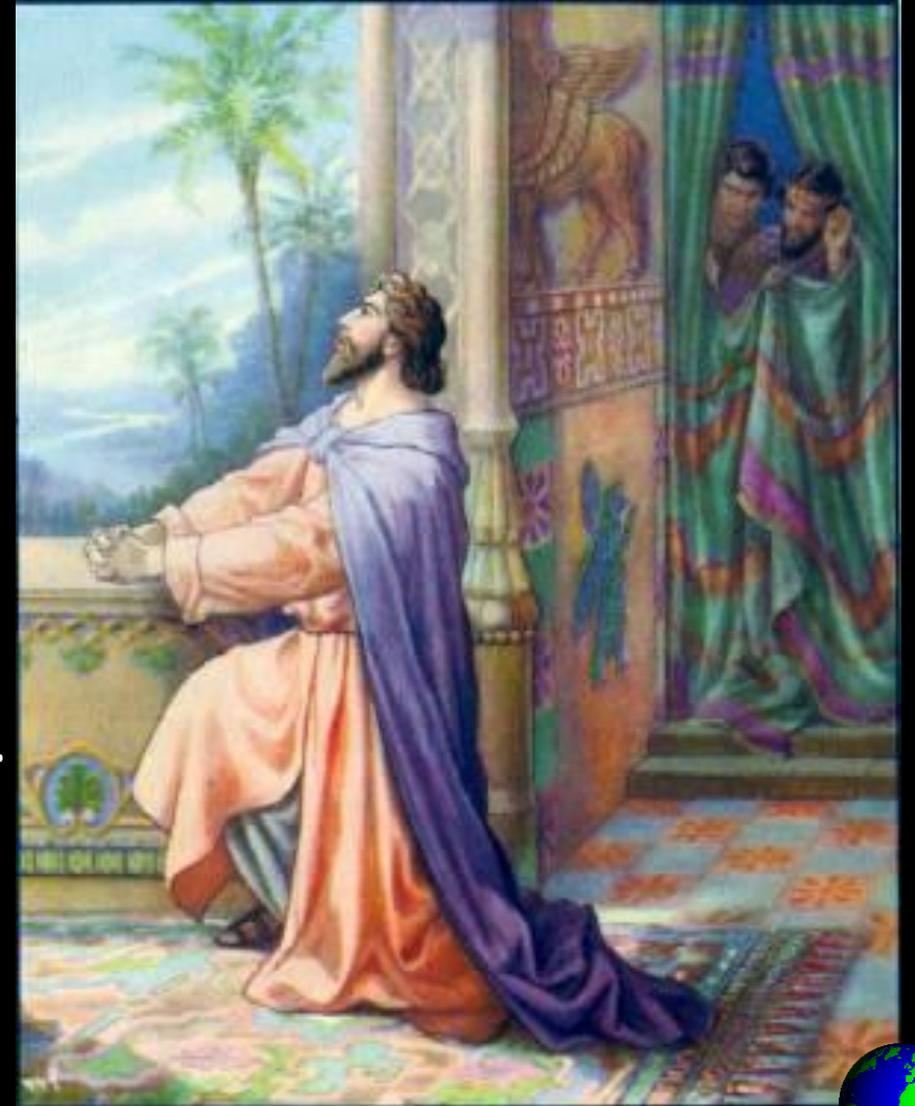


Daniel was always faithful...

Daniel was faithful in his secular duties ([Daniel 6:4](#)) and therefore proved himself faithful when the large test came. He had no fault (a better translation would be 'corruption') in the performance of his daily duties in the king's court. He was totally trustworthy.

Daniel kept God's law even at the risk of death ([Daniel 6:5](#)). The law was the key issue of the conflict, primarily the first table. Notice that Daniel's enemies could find no violation of the second table of the law by Daniel and therefore sought to legislate the first table. There is a conflict here between the laws of God and the laws of men.

Another issue in this controversy was worship. While in [Daniel 3](#) Babylon sought to establish false worship and disobedience to God's law, in [Daniel 6](#) Medo-Persia sought to forbid the free exercise of Daniel's right to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience ([Daniel 6:5, 12, 15](#)).



Intrigues of the Satraps

Even in heaven, a perfect environment, Lucifer feels jealous of Christ. “Lucifer was envious and jealous of Jesus Christ. Yet when all the angels bowed to Jesus to acknowledge His supremacy and high authority and rightful rule, he bowed with them; but his heart was filled with envy and hatred”. — *The Story of Redemption*, p. 14.

Jealousy is such a dangerous feeling to harbour that in the Ten Commandments themselves, alongside the forbiddance of murder and theft, there is the command against covetousness (see *Exodus 20:17*).

Intrigues happened constantly at royal courts and still happen today in governments and business. Daniel also became a target. He was being spied on. Result: it was found that he was innocent and righteous in every respect. His only vulnerability was his religion. Thus Daniel is a remarkable example for believers.



Daniel 6:6-9 - King is trapped

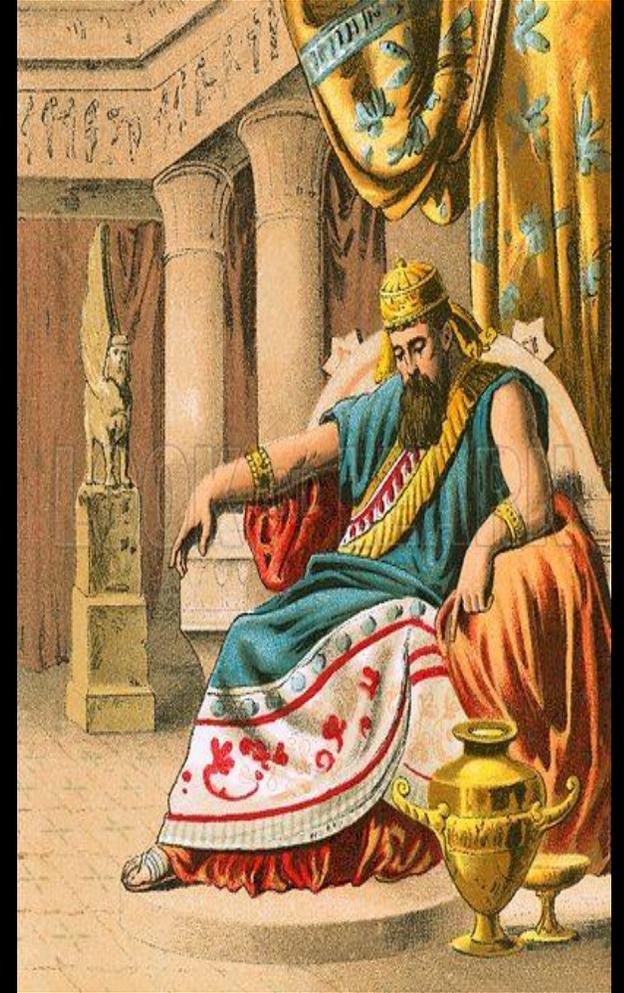
Daniel 6:6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

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.

Daniel was faithful to the God of heaven. The jealous princes and other presidents of the empire couldn't find anything to cast contempt on Daniel, as there was no "error or fault found in him." His dedication to the law of his God was well known, so they decided that the only way to trap Daniel was in his faithfulness to God's Law. Let's look at the way the Bible describes God and His Law.



Examining the verses...

Presidents and princes assembled together to the king - They all assembled before the king, as if to show that this was an important matter for the king to look over.

All the presidents...have consulted together - The claim here is that all inclusively have discussed and agreed on the matter that is going to be brought before the king. Now this is a lie as Daniel was at the head of them all, but yet not present nor consulted about the matter. It was to deceive the king into thinking that there was no opposition at hand.

Royal statute, and to make a firm decree - Their object was to make a royal statute, that is a firm/mighty decree, that no person was to ask any petition of any God or man for thirty days save of the king. They were willing to go against all their own gods and religious system to secure their object of ridding Daniel.

- It generally takes thirty days to form a new habit and break an old one. Thus if Daniel would continually bow to this decree it would be the forming of a new habit.



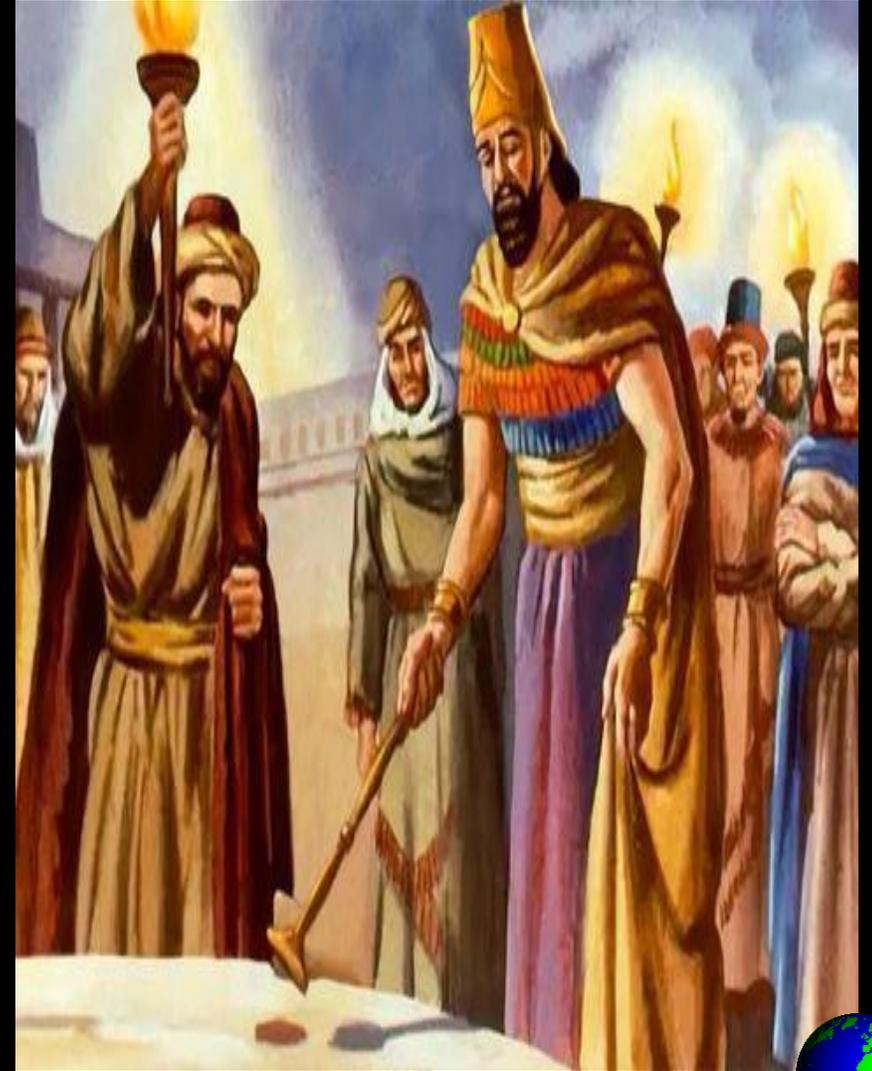
Examining the verses (cont'd)...

Cast into the den of lions - If not abided by it was punishable by death, being eaten alive by lions. They had watched Daniel and had seen the faultless character that he had, and seeing there was no fault to be found the only option left was to slay him. (Psalms 37:32)

O king, establish the decree - After appealing to the king's pride through exalting him, they ask him to sign the writing so it cannot be changed. This is a law of the Medes and Persians that once it has been signed by the king it cannot be altered.

Darius signed the writing - The king was deceived. He saw only that which brought glory and honour to himself, thus he signed the decree without hesitation.

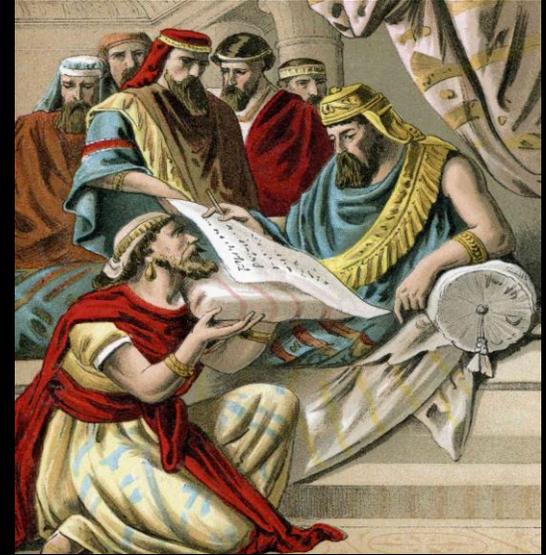
Darius may appear silly in promulgating a decree that he soon wishes to repeal. He falls into the trap laid by the officers, who are smart enough to play with the political circumstances of the recently established kingdom.



Political Strategy put forth...

Darius has decentralized the government and established one hundred and twenty satraps in order to make the administration more efficient. However, such action entails some risks in the long run. An influential governor can easily foster a rebellion and split the kingdom. Thus, a law forcing everyone to petition only to the king for thirty days seems a good strategy to foster allegiance to the king and, thus, prevent any kind of sedition. But the officers mislead the king by claiming that such a proposal has the support of “all” the governors, administrators, satraps, counsellors, and advisors — an obvious inaccuracy, since Daniel is not included. In addition, the prospect of being treated as a god may have been appealing to the king.

There is no evidence that Persian kings ever claimed divine status. Nevertheless, the decree may have been intended to make the king the sole representative of the gods for thirty days; that is, prayers to the gods have to be offered through him. Unfortunately, the king does not investigate the motivations behind the proposal. Thus, he fails to perceive that the law that would allegedly prevent conspiracy was itself a conspiracy to hurt Daniel.



Lied against Daniel

The presidents and princes met with the king to set up Daniel. **These leaders told King Darius a lie.** They claimed that all the presidents, governors, and princes had met and recommended the decree commanding exclusive worship of King Darius for thirty days.

Key Point:

1. Daniel was not a part of the meeting even though these deceivers stated that “all” were present.
2. This decree involved the death sentence for disobedience.
3. The laws of the Medes and Persians couldn't be changed.

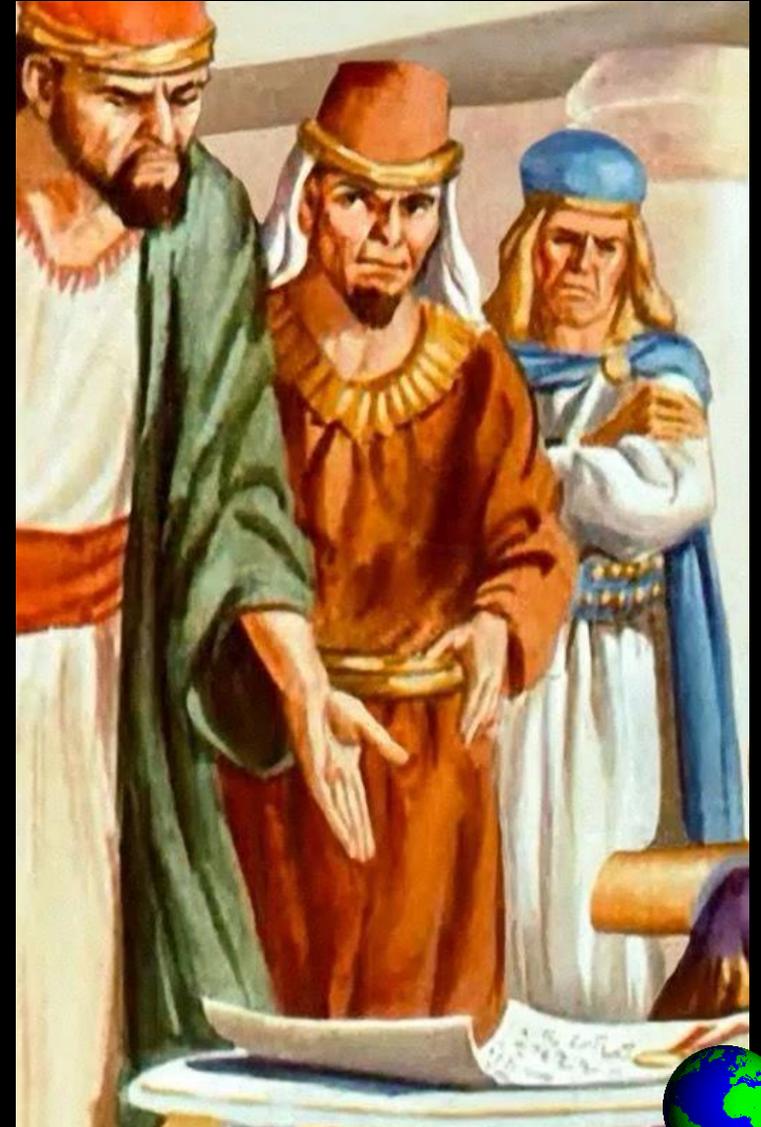
God commanded Israel to remember Him in prayer constantly. This new law signed by King Darius was an attempt to prohibit several core values that Daniel had been raised to follow.

Israel was to remember God in the morning, during the day and before going to bed. Deuteronomy 6:4-8

Israel prayed three times a day. Psalms 55:16-17

• Our prayer life must be constant. Psalms 34:1

God set aside the Sabbath as a weekly reminder that He is the Creator God. Exodus 20:8-11



What does this Law implicate?

Two aspects of this law deserve attention:

First, the penalty for transgression is to be cast into the lions' den. Since this kind of punishment is not attested elsewhere, it may have been an ad hoc suggestion of Daniel's enemies. Ancient Near Eastern monarchs placed lions in cages in order to release them on certain occasions for hunting. So there was no shortage of lions to maul whoever dared to violate the king's decree.

Second, the decree cannot be changed. The unchangeable nature of the "law of the Persians and Medes" is also mentioned in [Esther 1:19](#) and [Esther 8:8](#). Diodorus Siculus, an ancient Greek historian, mentions an occasion when Darius III (not to be confused with the Darius mentioned in Daniel) changed his mind but could no longer repeal a death sentence he had passed on an innocent man.



God and His Law

God Is

Luke 18:19
Isaiah 5:16
Deut. 32:4
Matt. 5:48
1 John 4:8
Exodus 9:27
Deut. 32:4
1 John 3:3
John 4:24
Malachi 3:6
Genesis 21:33

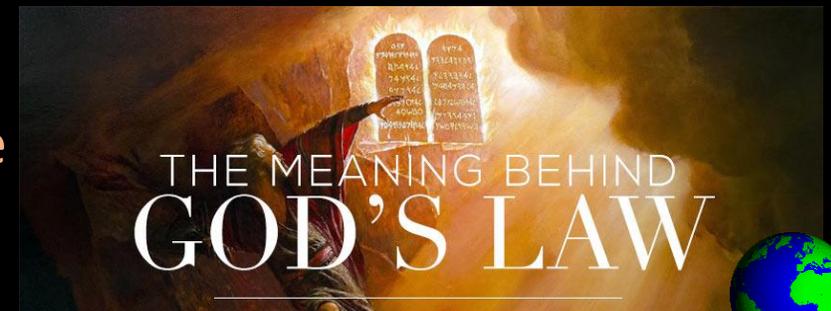
Attribute

Good
Holy
Just
Perfect
Love
Righteous
Truth
Pure
Spiritual
Unchangeable
Eternal

Law Is

Romans 7:12
Romans 7:12
Romans 7:12
Psalms 19:7
Romans 13:10
Psalms 19:9
Psalms 119:142
Psalms 19:8
Romans 7:14
Matthew 5:18
Psalms 111:7,8

As we can see, the Bible describes God and His Law, the Ten Commandments, exactly the same! The Ten Commandments are a transcript of His character, therefore, you can't separate God from His Law. So Now, let's take a look at God's Law, His 10 Commandments, to see which of the Commandments he would have broken by putting king Darius before God.



God's 10 Commandments

Exodus 20:1 "And God spake all these words, saying,

2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

13 Thou shalt not kill.

14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

15 Thou shalt not steal.

16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."

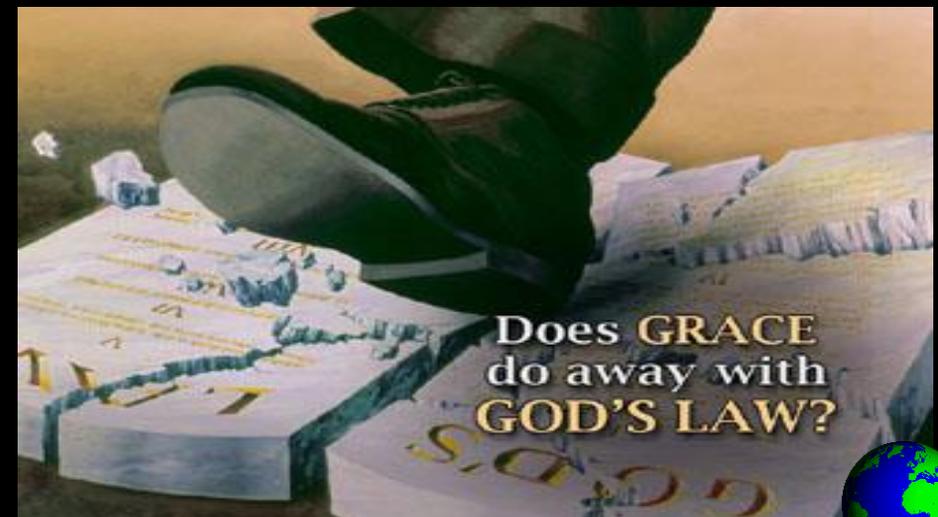
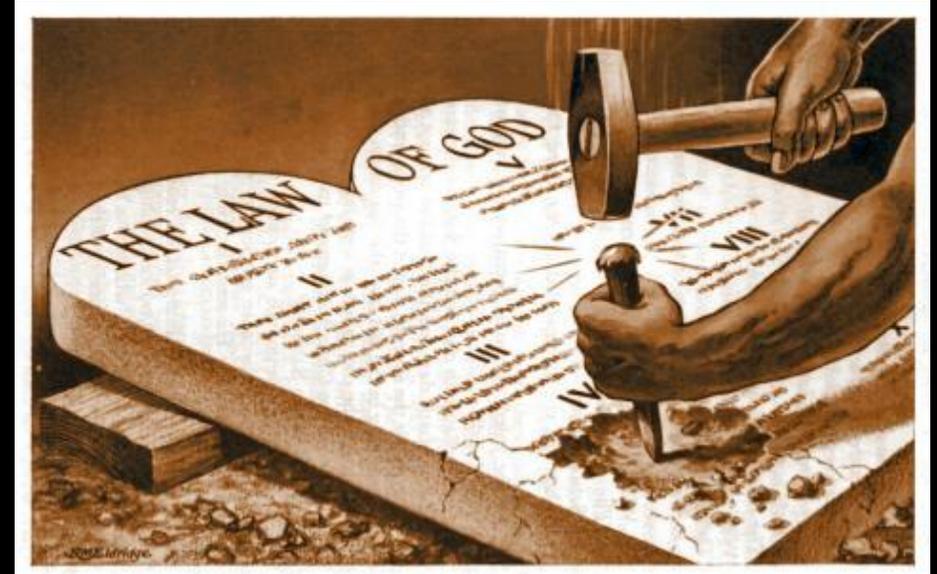


God's Character in the Law

We have probably read through many times the Ten Commandments. **Maybe we have memorized them, but do we know what the principles of God's law are?** The Ten Commandments are a transcript of the character of God, so let's go through them and point out the principles. Verses 1 and 2, tell us that God gave us the Ten Commandments, not Moses. In fact, in **Exodus 31:18** the Bible plainly states that the Ten Commandments were written with the finger of God.

Exodus 31:18 "And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God."

Now ask yourself the question, how many of these can we do away with and have perfect peace and harmony? The answer is none of them! They're a mirror that we look at to see where we are out of harmony with God. Please read **James 1:23-25**



What does the Law imply

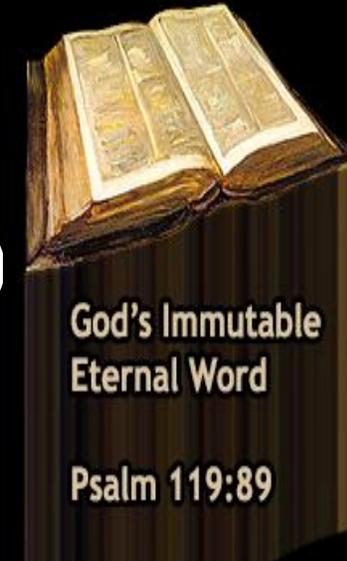
The first four Commandments deal with our relationship with God.

<u>Verse</u>	<u>Commandment</u>	<u>Principle</u>
Vs. 3	1st Commandment	Loyalty
Vs. 4-6	2nd Commandment	True Worship
Vs. 7	3rd Commandment	Reverence
Vs. 8-11	4th Commandment	Holy Time

The last six Commandments deal with our relationship to each other.

Vs. 12	5th Commandment	Respect for Authority (Parental, Spiritual, & Civil)
Vs. 13	6th Commandment	Respect for Life
Vs. 14	7th Commandment	Purity of Heart
Vs. 15	8th Commandment	Honesty
Vs. 16	9th Commandment	Truthfulness
Vs. 17	10th Commandment	Contentment

As the world becomes increasingly liberal, and man's laws contradict God's Laws more and more, we will each be forced to take a stand. What will you do when your time of testing comes?

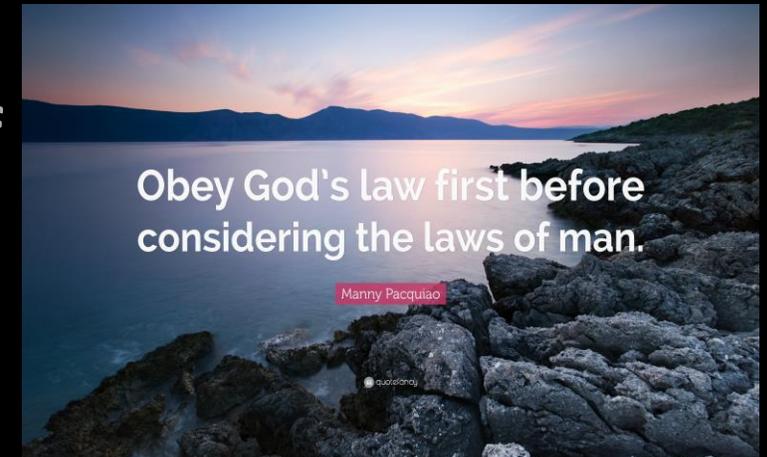


The law was never intended to save you! It was given so that you would see your need of a Saviour! When you see your need, you go to Jesus! He will forgive and cleanse you, if you ask! Daniel remained faithful, not to be saved, but because he loved God so much that he would rather die than be unfaithful. God's people at the end of time will have that same kind of love, commitment, and faithfulness. Please read [Acts 5:27-29](#).



2 Commandments would be transgressed

In conflicts between religious duty and governmental law, we must always obey God. So what commandments would Daniel have broken, if he followed this new law of the land, written by king Darius? To start with, The first commandment, *"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me."* **Had Daniel obeyed the king, he would have put king Darius and his law above God. He would have also broken the fourth commandment**, *"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."* **This new law would have affected both his daily worship of putting God first in everything he did, and also his weekly Sabbath worship, recognizing God as the supreme Creator.**



Man's laws
CANNOT
make moral

what God has
DECLARED
immoral.

- Dallin H. Oaks



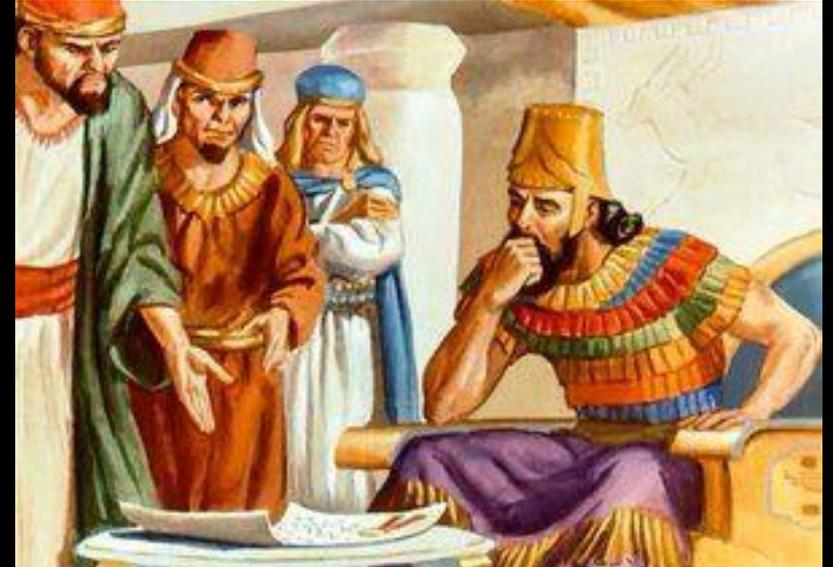
Examining the Scenario

How are the governors and satraps depicted?

- Envious, ambitious, egotistic
- They wanted to get rid of Daniel.
- They were cruel and ready to kill anyone who would interfere with their interests.
- They flattered the king and obtained a law that was able to harm Daniel.
- They were hypocritical and conniving.
- They were not interested in whether or not a person was innocent.
- They used Daniel's different religion to turn against him.

How would we characterize the king?

- He was flattered.
- He did not notice that the proposed decree was directed against Daniel, and may have been quite naïve at this point.
- Because the law of the Medes and Persians was considered to be unchangeable, by creating a new law the king got Daniel and himself in trouble.
- He was an absolute ruler who may not have cared much about human life.



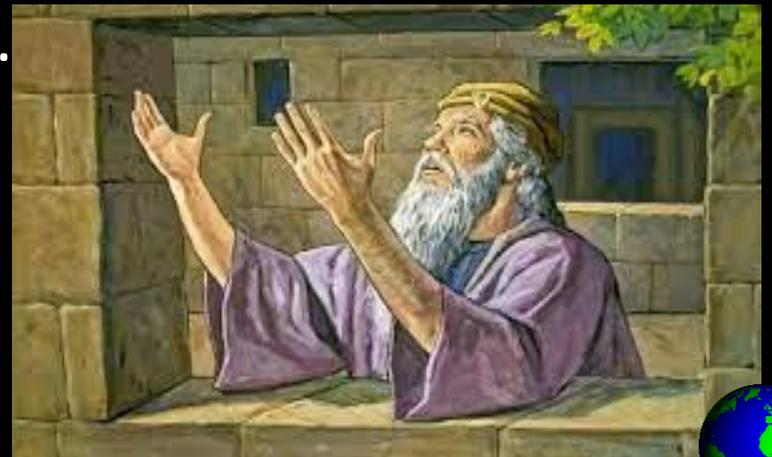
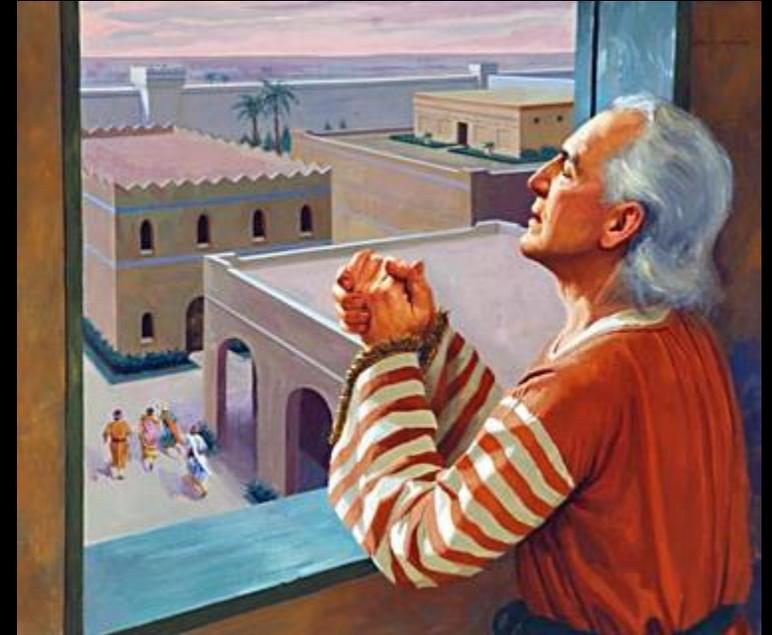
Daniel 6:10 - Prayed as his custom

Daniel 6:10 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.

Daniel had an unbreakable and unshakeable faith in his God.

The enemies of Daniel worked in an underhanded way to deceive the civil power into proclaiming a religious decree forbidding true worship. In this, Darius overstepped his legitimate bounds of authority—he legislated the first table which is God’s exclusive domain.

The decree forbidding true worship was given by the civil power in written form (Daniel 6:7-9). Thus we have the civil power legislating the affairs of God. It is important to realize that the king was not Daniel’s enemy. The king only became a menace to Daniel when he listened to the advice of his counsellors who were enemies of Daniel.



Examining the verses...

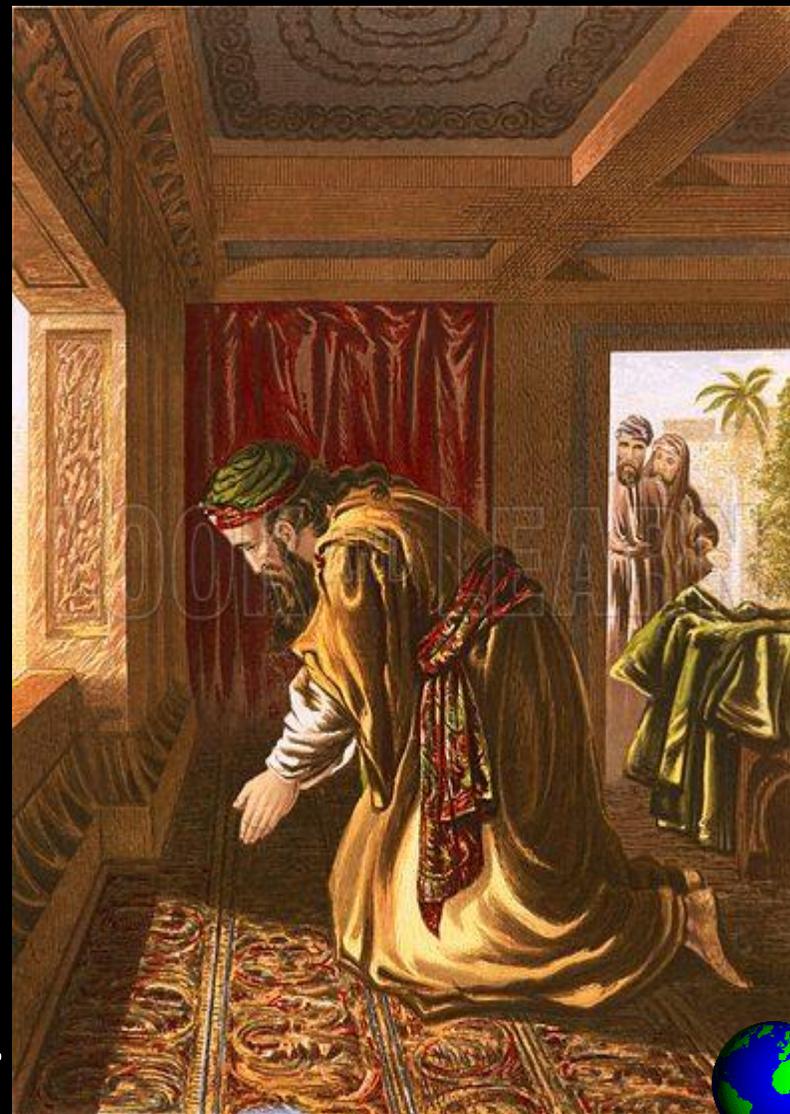
When Daniel knew that the writing was signed - When Daniel found out that the decree was signed by the king he did not try to have the decree changed or stopped, but did something that we should do in the time of trial.

Went into his house...windows open...toward Jerusalem - Knowing that it was written against him, he went into his house and opened his windows towards Jerusalem, exposing himself to all that could see.

But why toward Jerusalem? Jerusalem was where the temple of God was and by faith they saw the revelation of Jehovah's glory.

Kneeled upon his knees...three times a day...did aforetime - Then he knelt down to pray as he usually did three times a day. People may make the remark that it was an act of defiance on the part of Daniel, but we will see otherwise.

When Daniel knew of the decree, it was at that time that he went to send out his prayers and supplications to God. No doubt he was praying for strength to endure the trial.



But why not pray where no one could see him?

In doing this it would be a denying of his faith, and we shall see why in the following points:

- **The decree said to the king only.**
- **They knew that he prayed like this, thus the decree against him to trap him.**
- **God must be honoured above kings, for we ought to obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29)**
- **To change his practice would be to deny God.**

This was customary for Daniel to pray in this fashion three times a day every day, and they knew this. If he were to change it now, after the decree was made known, it would be showing a lack of faith in his God to be able to uphold him in this situation. **It would be denying God's supreme authority in having no other god's before Him. (Exodus 20:3-6)** If he prayed somewhere where no one could see him, it would lead people to believe that he could be praying to the king, thus being a stumbling block to someone else.



Uncompromising Daniel

“True reverence for God is inspired by a sense of His infinite greatness and a realization of His presence.” *Prophet and Kings*, pp. 48, 49

Why didn't Daniel just close his windows so as not to offend his enemies? After all, isn't religion a private affair? Why ruffle the feathers of his enemies? Ellen White responds:

“As Daniel, according to his custom, made his supplications three times a day to the God of heaven, the attention of the princes and rulers was called to his case. He had an opportunity to speak for himself, to show who is the true God, and to present the reason why He alone should receive worship, and the duty of rendering Him praise and homage. And the deliverance of Daniel from the den of lions was another evidence that the Being whom he worshiped was the true and living God.”

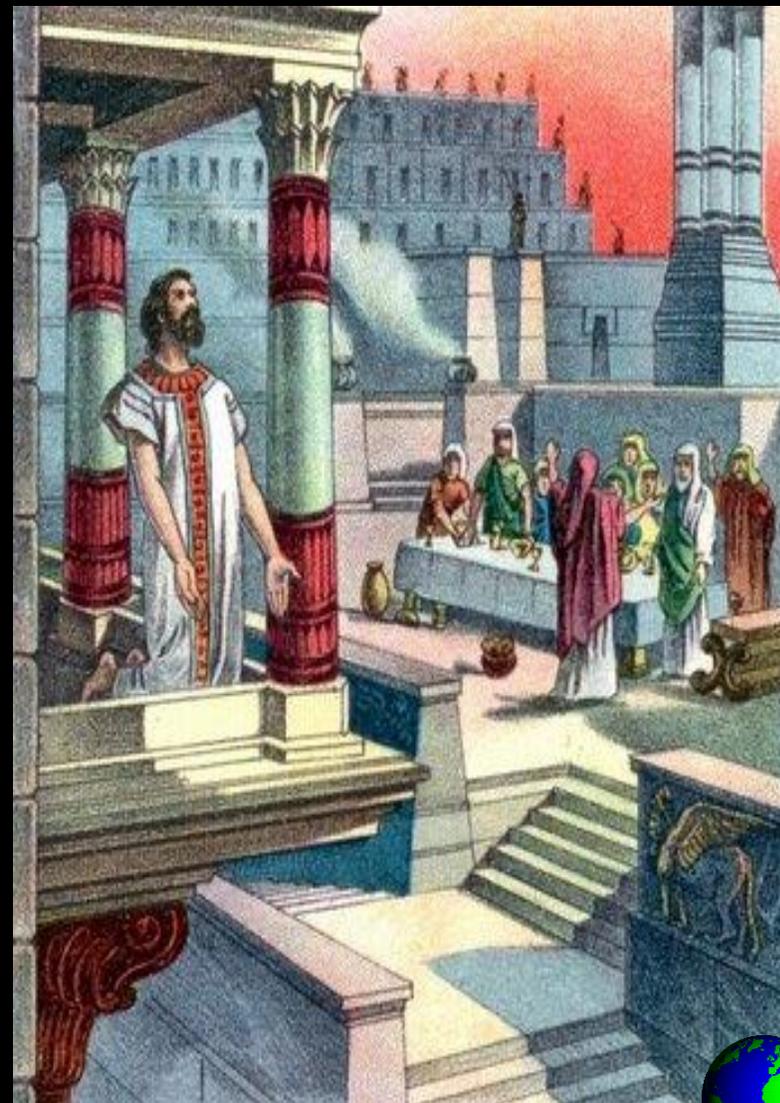
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5 p. 453



Daniel knows what it means

Daniel is an experienced statesman, but, above all, he is God's servant. As such, he is the only member of the government who can understand what lies behind the king's decree. For Darius the decree amounts to an opportunity to strengthen the unity of the kingdom, but for the conspirators it is a strategy to get rid of Daniel.

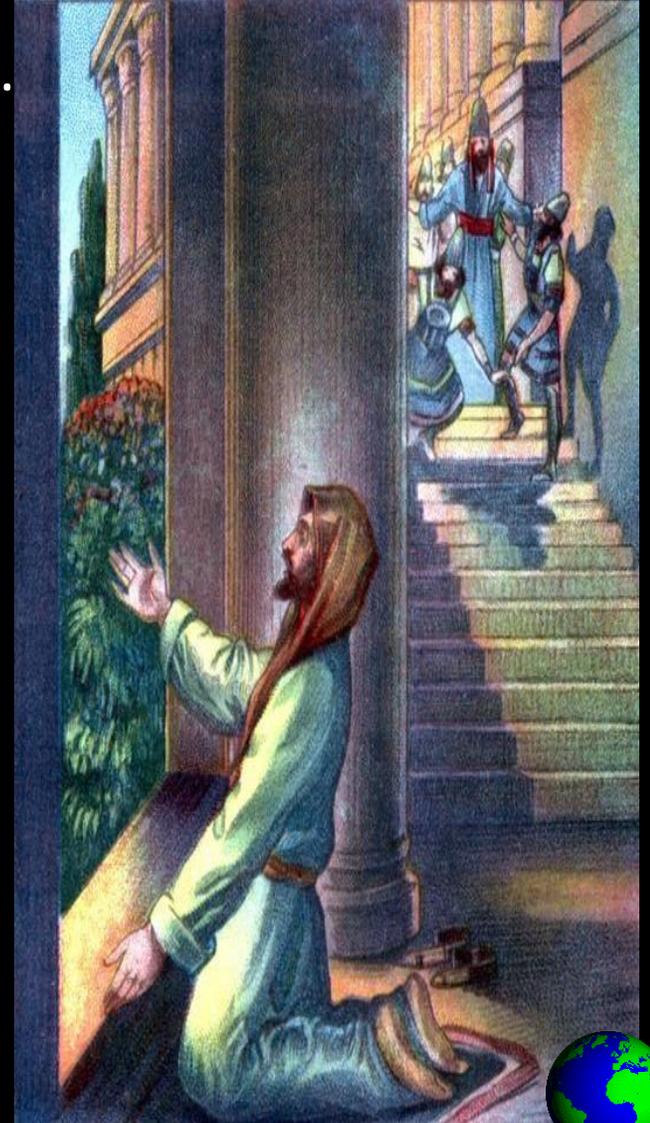
Of course, the real causes and motives behind the plot lie in the cosmic battle between God and the forces of evil. At this time (539 B.C.) Daniel has already received the visions recorded in Daniel 7 (553 B.C.) and 8 (551 B.C.). So he can understand the royal decree, not as a matter of mere human politics but as an instance of this cosmic war. The vision of the Son of Man delivering the kingdom to the people of the Most High and the comforting assistance of the angel interpreter (Daniel 7) may have brought him the courage to face the crisis head on. He may also have reflected on the experience of his companions, who have been brave enough to challenge the decree of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3).



Dare to be a Daniel

Thus, he does not change his devotional habits but continues his customary practice of praying three times a day towards Jerusalem. In spite of the prohibition to make petition to any man or god but the king, Daniel takes no precaution to hide or disguise his prayer life during those critical thirty days also. He is an absolute minority since he is the only one, among dozens of governors and other officers, on a collision course with the royal decree. Through his open prayer life, though, he demonstrates that the allegiance he owes to God comes before his allegiance to the king and his irrevocable decree.

Daniel is acquainted with the purpose of his enemies to ruin him. But he does not change his course in a single particular. With calmness he performs his accustomed duties, and at the hour of prayer he goes to his chamber, and with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he offers his petitions to the God of heaven. By his course of action he fearlessly declares that no earthly power has the right to come between him and his God and tell him to whom he should or should not pray. Noble man of principle! he stands before the world today a praiseworthy example of Christian boldness and fidelity. He turns to God with all his heart, although he knows that death is the penalty for his devotion.



Daniel's Consistent Life of Prayer

Key Points:

Notice Daniel's reaction. He did not try to rationalize away obedience or change his ways.

Instead, he remained true to his God. He didn't stop his time of worship to make the king happy.

This experience reminds us of Daniel's commitment in chapter 1 to remain true and loyal to God at all costs.

1. **“Three times a day”: Daniel had an active prayer life. It was not a hit-and-miss experience.**

He stayed in constant communication with God and led a consistent life of devotion. It is said that seven days without God makes one weak! How true it is!

2. Daniel gave thanks to God in spite of the circumstances. **How could he do that? Daniel had faith in his God.** He had seen God's hand many times throughout his life, and he trusted God fully. **Just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in chapter 3, Daniel knew that God was able to deliver him.** But even if He didn't, Daniel still would remain true. No doubt, Daniel had God's peace. Read [Isaiah 26:3-4](#)

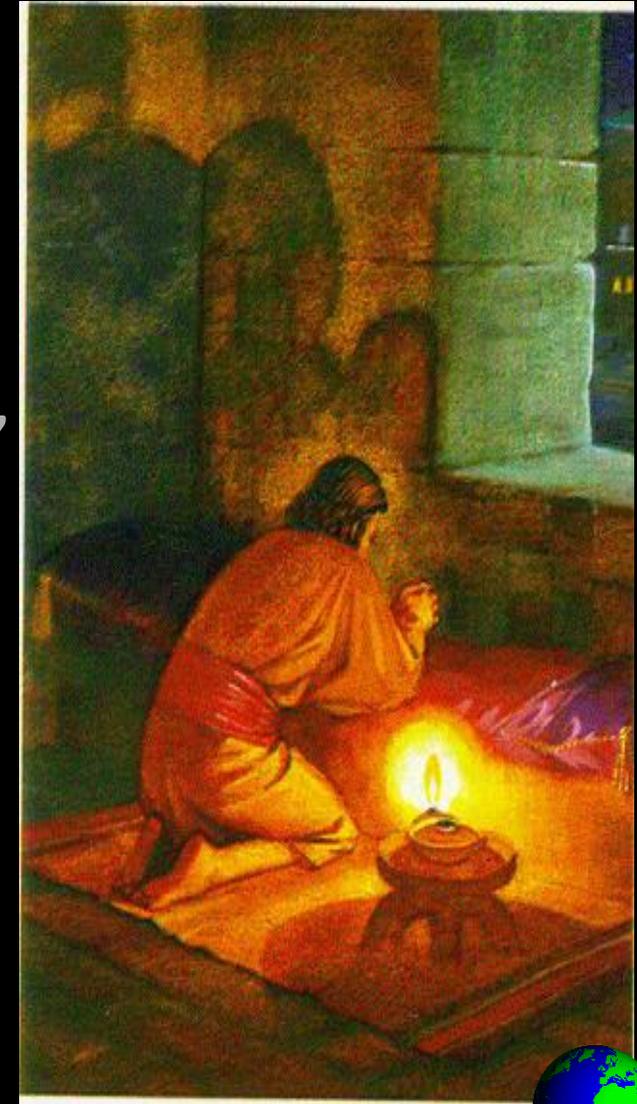


What do we learn from Daniel's prayer life?

- For Daniel, praying was a necessity. He prayed regularly.
- Even under difficult circumstances Daniel turned to God in prayer with faith.
- For Daniel it was more important to pray than to live.
- Daniel's prayer consisted of petition, praise, thanksgiving, confession of sin, and intercession.
- He experienced marvellous fulfilments of prayer.
- In spite of his many duties and all the stress that he may have had, he made time for prayer.
- Prayer may have been the key to his success.
- Daniel prayed regularly and retreated to a special place at specific times

Why did Daniel continue to pray in such a way that he could be seen?

- It would have been a denial of his faith not to continue praying in the same way he did before.
- It would have recognized the king as the highest authority and lord.
- His connection to God was important to him, especially in a crisis.
- A secret refusal to obey orders would still have been a refusal to obey orders. He had nothing to hide.



Daniel's undeterred faithfulness

Daniel had perfect peace because his prayer life kept his mind fixed on the Lord. **We can have this same relationship if we will maintain the same constant communication with God through daily prayer and Bible study.**

Key Point:

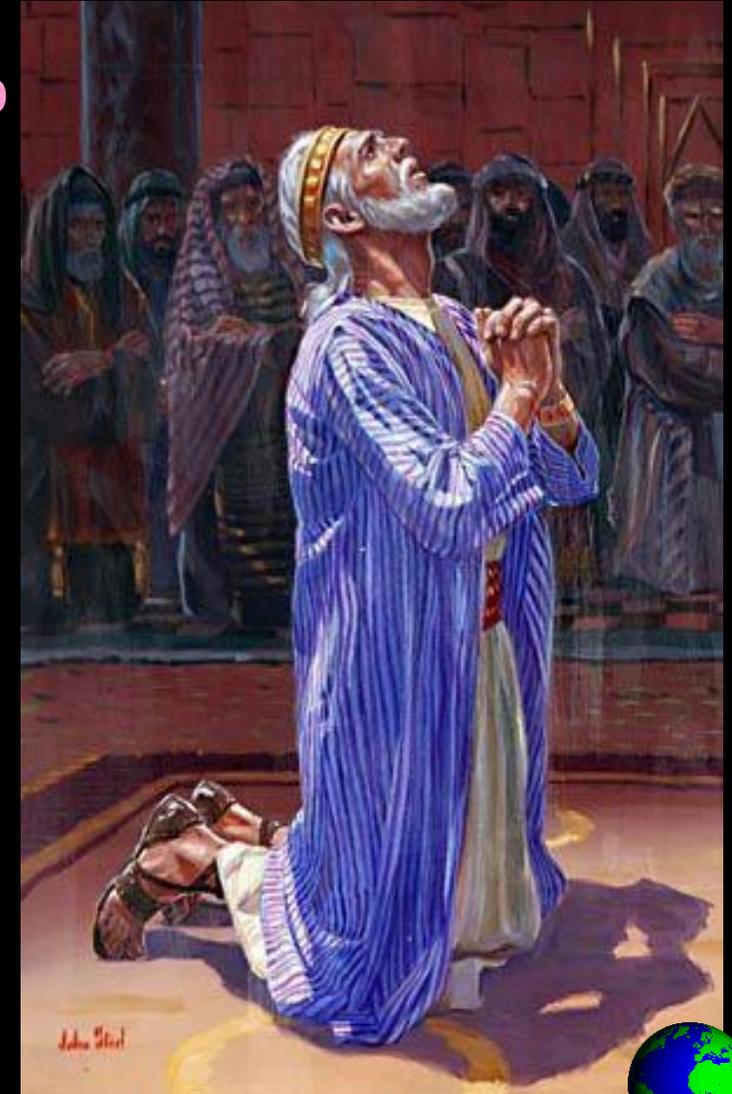
Daniel's prayer life had three qualities:

1. **Continual**
2. **Consistent**
3. **Filled with thankfulness**

Daniel was most likely more than eighty years old.

How does old age relate to faithfulness to God?

- **One can be faithful to God regardless of age. The temptations encountered by young people and the frailty of old age do not justify unfaithfulness.**
- **Daniel had already experienced God's interventions. They may have helped him to stand on God's side in the greatest crisis of his life.**

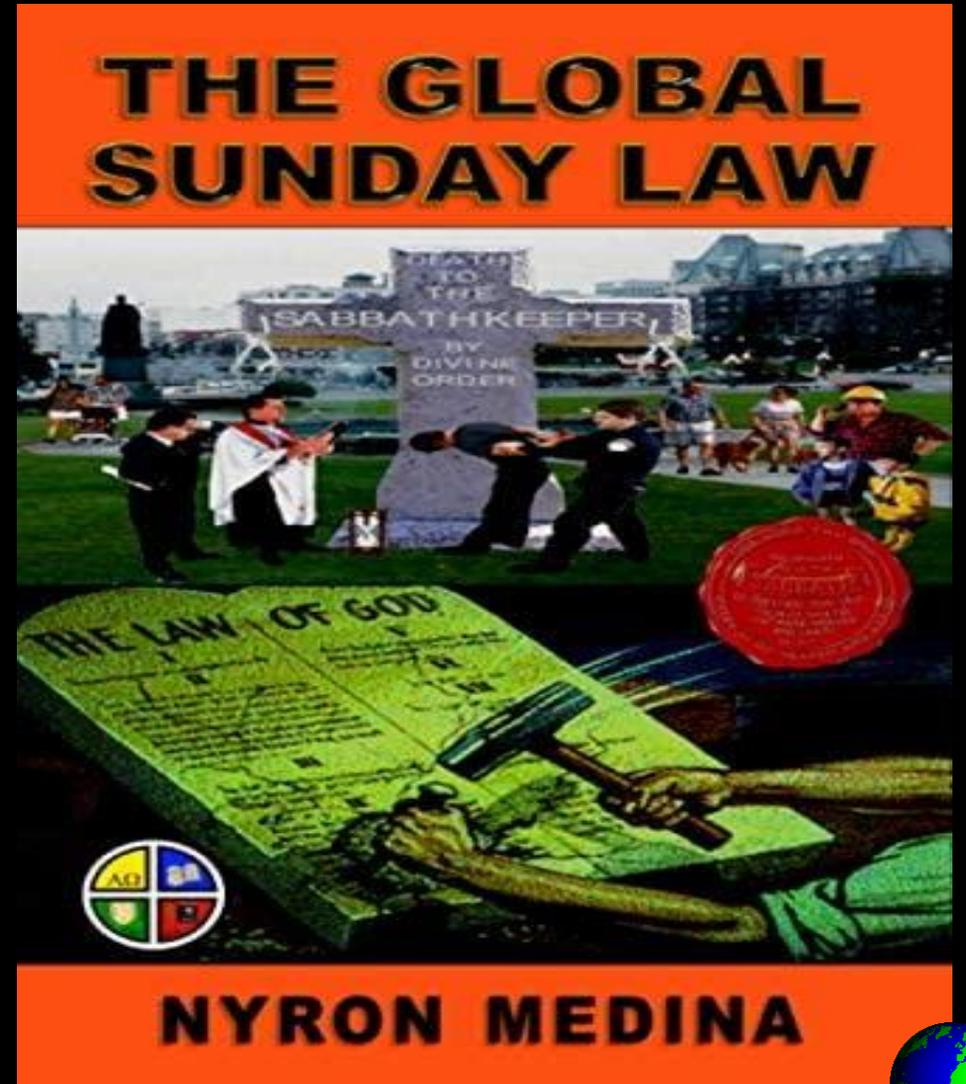


Summary

This story reveals that the power of human rulers is limited. When Darius gave this decree, he sought to reveal his 'almighty power'. But once he signed the decree, he became the slave of his own law, he was bound by his own decree and could not deliver Daniel no matter how much he tried. This made it necessary for One who is truly Almighty to deliver Daniel. The intervention of God shows that He overrules the erroneous decisions of human kings and can do what they never could.

A great crisis awaits the people of God. A crisis awaits the world. The most momentous struggle of all the ages is just before us... .

When the laws of earthly rulers are brought into opposition to the laws of the Supreme Ruler of the universe, then those who are God's loyal subjects will be true to Him.—[Maranatha](#), p. 131.

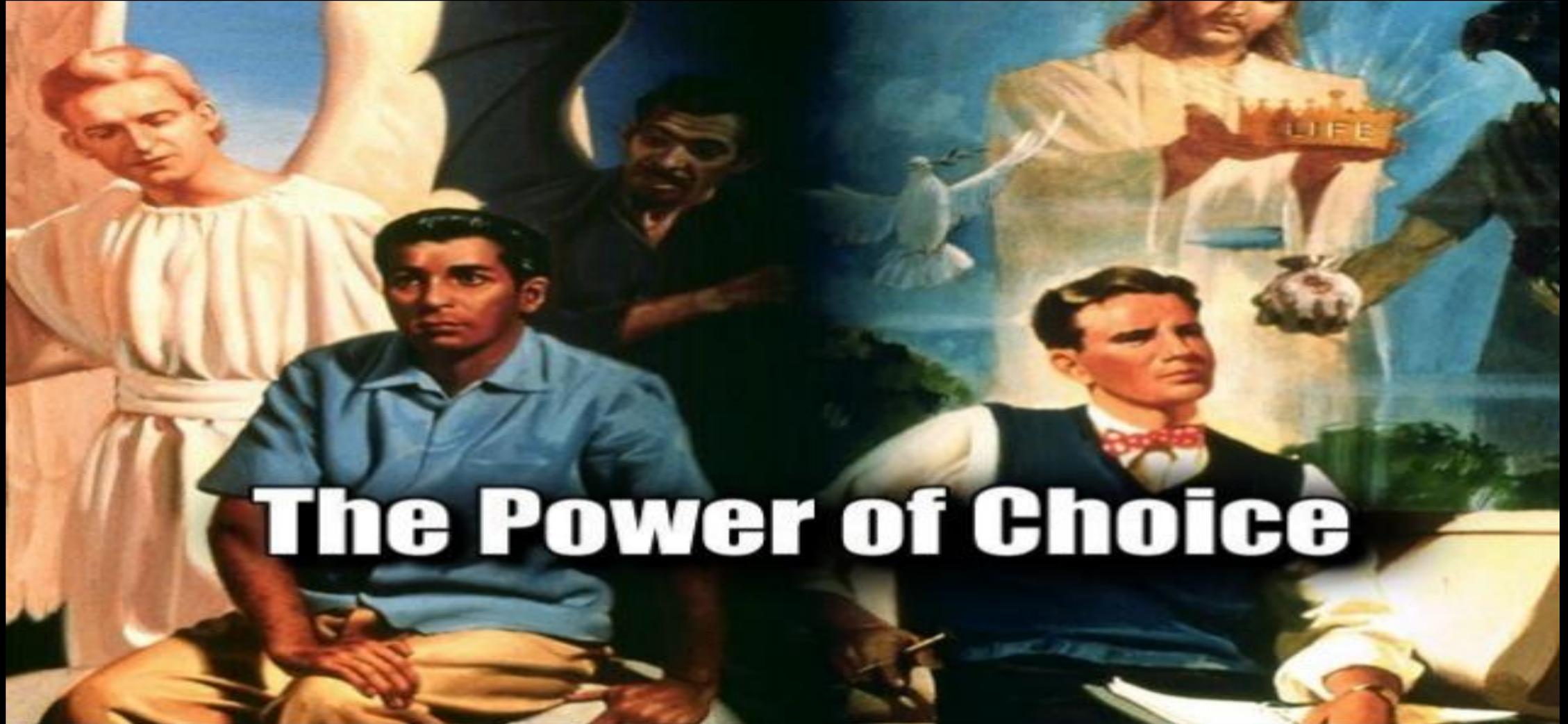


Conclusion

The case of Daniel was presented before me. Although he was a man of like passions with ourselves, the pen of inspiration presents him as a faultless character. His life is given us as a bright example of what man may become, even in this life, if he will make God his strength and wisely improve the opportunities and privileges within his reach. Daniel was an intellectual giant; yet he was continually seeking for greater knowledge, for higher attainments. Other young men had the same advantages; but they did not, like him, bend all their energies to seek wisdom—the knowledge of God as revealed in His word and in His works. Although Daniel was one of the world's great men, he was not proud nor self-sufficient. He felt the need of refreshing his soul with prayer, and each day found him in earnest supplication before God. He would not be deprived of this privilege even when a den of lions was opened to receive him if he continued to pray.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 569.

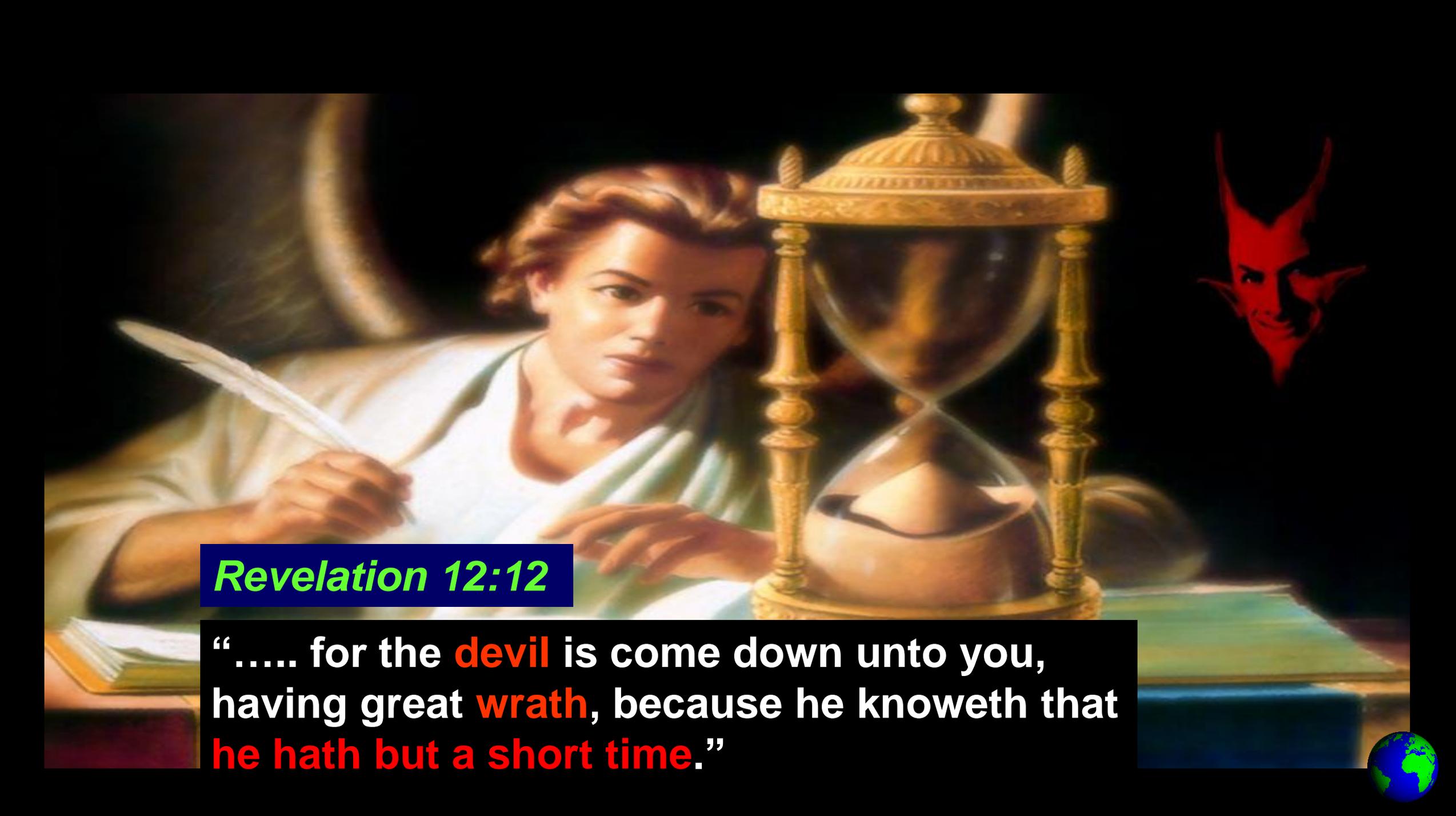


God has given all:



The Power of Choice



An angel with a halo and wings is shown writing in a book with a quill pen. To the right of the angel is a large, ornate golden hourglass. In the background, a red devil's face with horns is visible. The scene is set in a dimly lit room with a book on a desk.

Revelation 12:12

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you, having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that **he hath but a short time.**”



Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. –
Revelation 3:20





THE END



ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?