

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

LESSON 6: FAITH THAT BREAKS THE LAW

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THE STORY OF DANIEL 6 FOCUSES LESS ON DANIEL AND HIS FAITHFULNESS TO GOD AND MORE ON HOW OTHERS AROUND DANIEL RESPONDED (POSITIVELY AND NEGATIVELY) TO HIS FAITH.

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WHEN WE ALLOW GOD AND HIS WORD TO DETERMINE OUR COURSE OF CONDUCT, WE WILL BE DILIGENT AND DEPENDABLE, QUALITIES EVEN UNBELIEVERS TYPICALLY APPRECIATE – DAN 6:1-5.

- THE PHRASE “EXTRAORDINARY SPIRIT” PROBABLY RELATES NOT TO THE RELIGIOUS DEVOTION OF DANIEL BUT HIS WISDOM AND INTEGRITY IN SECULAR AND CIVIL MATTERS – VV. 3-5.

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- IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE OTHER LEADERS, BEING UNSCRUPULOUS, WICKED MEN, BECAME JEALOUS OF DANIEL AND SOUGHT TO DESTROY HIS REPUTATION – V. 4.

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WHEN WE ALLOW GOD AND HIS WORD TO DETERMINE OUR COURSE OF CONDUCT, WE WILL BE DILIGENT AND DEPENDABLE, QUALITIES EVEN UNBELIEVERS TYPICALLY APPRECIATE – DAN 6:1-5.

- DANIEL, HOWEVER, WAS A MAN OF IMPECCABLE CHARACTER AND ONLY BY DECEPTION COULD HIS ENEMIES ENTRAP HIM, KNOWING HE WOULD BE FAITHFUL TO GOD – vv. 4-5.

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OUR FAITHFULNESS TO GOD WILL RESULT IN PERSECUTION, TYPICALLY ORGANIZED BY OUR PEERS, BUILT ON DECEPTION, AND TESTING OUR COMMITMENT – DAN 6:6-9.

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IT IS DURING TIMES OF TEMPTATION/TRIAL THAT THE QUALITY OF OUR FAITH IS REVEALED, FORCING US TO CHOOSE FOR OR AGAINST GOD – DAN 6:10-15.

- DANIEL WAS AWARE OF THE LAW FORBIDDING PRAYER TO GOD AND THE CONSEQUENCE OF DISOBEDIENCE, BUT HE REFUSED TO DENY (OR HIDE) HIS ALLEGIANCE TO GOD – V. 10.

FAITH EVIDENCED BY PRAYER – V. 10.

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FAITH DEMANDS RESOLVE – ACTS 5:29.

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IT IS DURING TIMES OF TEMPTATION/TRIAL THAT THE QUALITY OF OUR FAITH IS REVEALED, FORCING US TO CHOOSE FOR OR AGAINST GOD – DAN 6:10-15.

- THE ENEMIES OF DANIEL USED HIS FAITHFULNESS TO GOD AGAINST HIM, BUT DARIUS, WHO APPRECIATED THE INTEGRITY OF DANIEL, DESIRED ONLY GOOD FOR HIM – VV. 11-15.

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WHILE THE CONSEQUENCES OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE TO SERVE GOD CAN BE DRASTIC, IT IS ALWAYS RIGHT FOR US TO OBEY HIM – DAN 6:16-18; SEE V. 14; REV 2:10.

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WE WILL SUFFER FOR OBEYING GOD, BUT HE WILL DELIVER US, SAVING US FROM DEATH AND DESTROYING OUR ENEMIES, IF WE TRUST HIM – DAN 6:19-24; SEE 2 THESS 1:6-9.

- **GOD IS FULLY ABLE TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM SEEMINGLY HOPELESS SITUATIONS, AND HE DOES SO BECAUSE HE IS THE LIVING, ALL-POWERFUL, AND TRANSCENDENT GOD – DAN 6:20.**

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WE WILL SUFFER FOR OBEYING GOD, BUT HE WILL DELIVER US, SAVING US FROM DEATH AND DESTROYING OUR ENEMIES, IF WE TRUST HIM – DAN 6:19-24; SEE 2 THESS 1:6-9.

- **BUT THE IMPORTANT LESSON WE LEARN FROM DANIEL IS THAT DELIVERANCE REQUIRES FAITH AND CONTINUED OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD AND BLAMELESS CHARACTER – DAN 6:20, 22-23.**

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

IF WE PROVE FAITHFUL TO GOD WHEN THE PRICE OF OBEDIENCE IS HIGH, WE WILL BRING GREATER GLORY TO GOD AND INFLUENCE MORE PEOPLE FOR GOOD – DAN 6:25-28.

- THE FAITHFULNESS OF DANIEL (AGAIN) REVEALED THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD TO A PAGAN WORLD THAT REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE LORD – VV. 25-27; SEE VV. 14, 16, 18-20, 23-24.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

IF WE PROVE FAITHFUL TO GOD WHEN THE PRICE OF OBEDIENCE IS HIGH, WE WILL BRING GREATER GLORY TO GOD AND INFLUENCE MORE PEOPLE FOR GOOD – DAN 6:25-28.

- THOUGH GOD DOES NOT PROMISE THAT WE WILL ALWAYS PROSPER PHYSICALLY FOR OUR FAITH, DANIEL WAS BLESSED EACH TIME HE FACED DIFFICULTY AND REMAINED TRUE TO GOD.

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IF WE WILL, LIKE DANIEL, LIVE A LIFE CHARACTERIZED BY RIGHTEOUSNESS, FAITH, AND PRAYER, WE WILL BE PERSECUTED, BUT WE WILL ALSO ULTIMATELY BE DELIVERED AND BLESSED BY THE LORD, BRING GLORY TO HIS NAME.