

LEARNING FROM DANIEL

SCRIPTURE LESSON: (Daniel 6:1-5, NIV)

¹ It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, ² with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. ³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."

KEY VERSE: "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 6:3, KJV).

I. CALLED TO BABYLON

1. "You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had" (Philippians 2:5, NLT).

A. Daniel Found Contentment in a Strange Environment

1. "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13, NIV).
2. "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life" (Philippians 2:14-16, NIV).
3. "Work...as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23, NIV).
4. "Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this" (Psalm 37:4-5, NIV).

B. Daniel Formulated His Convictions Early

1. "But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way" (Daniel 1:8, NIV).
2. "Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, 'Come to bed with me!'
But he refused. 'With me in charge,' he told her, 'my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God'" (Genesis 39:6-9, NIV)?
3. "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7, NIV).

II. THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S CALL WAS ACHIEVED

1. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28, NIV).

A. God Had a Plan

1. "Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom" (Daniel 6:3, NIV).
2. "A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men" (Proverbs 18:16, KJV).

B. Opposition to God's Plan

1. "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45, NIV).
2. "At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. Finally these men said, 'We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God'" (Daniel 6:4-5, NIV).
3. "Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before" (Daniel 6:10, NIV).

C. God's Plan for Daniel Included Trials and Tests

1. "So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, 'May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you'" (Daniel 6:16, NIV)!
2. "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you" (1 Peter 4:12, NIV).

CONCLUSION

A. God Brought Deliverance

1. "Daniel answered, 'O king, live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king'" (Daniel 6:21-22, NIV).
2. No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (1 Corinthians 10:13, NIV).
3. "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5, NIV).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discuss Daniel's convictions in chapter 1 and his resolve to remain holy.
2. Discuss how that might apply to your life.
3. Come up with examples of how you might have to stand for your beliefs.
4. Discuss Daniel's commitment to God in chapter 6.
5. How strong is your faith in God to protect you?
6. Are you afraid for others to know that you are a Christian?
7. What are some obvious things that you do that indicate your commitment as a Christian?