



SAVED TO SERVE

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DANIEL THE PROPHET - DANIEL 6 IN THE LION'S DEN, PART 2

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will continue studying Daniel 6. We will see how the experience of Daniel in the lions' den typifies the experience that we will go through in these last days.
2. What was Daniel found doing after knowing that the decree for false worship was signed? Daniel 6:10-11

3. Read Daniel 6:12-13. What was the penalty for disobeying this decree?

4. **Note:** Let's compare the account of Daniel and Esther. Both of these characters lived under the rule of the Medo-Persian Empire.
5. Who hated Mordecai and the rest of the Jews, because of Mordecai's fidelity to God? Esther 3:2, 5-6

6. Like King Darius did to Daniel, what did King Ahasuerus do to Haman? Esther 3:1; Daniel 6:1-3

7. **Note:** Just as Daniel was elevated by King Darius and preferred above the other princes and rulers, so Haman was promoted by King Ahasuerus and preferred above the princes. However, Haman used his influence and position for evil in order to destroy God's faithful people, while Daniel used his influence and position for good, to be a faithful witness and ambassador for God. The application for us is that whatever position we may be in we should choose to glorify God and not give occasion to man to find fault in our everyday transactions, which would thus dishonor God.

"The experience of Daniel as a statesman in the kingdoms of Babylon and Medo-Persia reveals the truth that a businessman is not necessarily a designing, policy man, but that he may be a man instructed by God at every step. Daniel, the prime minister of the greatest of earthly kingdoms, was at the same time a prophet of God, receiving the light of heavenly inspiration. A man of like passions as ourselves, the pen of inspiration describes him as without fault. His business transactions, when subjected to the closest scrutiny of his enemies, were found to be without one flaw. He was an example of what every businessman may become when his heart is converted and consecrated, and when his motives are right in the sight of God." {PK 546.1}
8. What law did Haman trick the king into enacting? Who was affected? Esther 3:12-15

9. What does the Bible tell us about the law of the Medes and Persians? Daniel 6:12, 15, 17; Esther 3:12; 8:8

10. What was Esther found doing to be strengthened for the crisis? Esther 4:16; Matthew 17:21

11. **Note:** The life of Daniel and Esther serves as an example for both men and women to have strict integrity and unwavering faith in God through prayer. It is now we should learn to pray both in the good times and when trials come so that through prayer we can move mountains. Their experience will be repeated for God's faithful people in these last days.
12. What irrevocable decree will be passed in the last days, which will force people to worship falsely? Revelation 13:15-17

13. After the passing of the Mark of the Beast (Mandatory Sunday Worship by Law), what will be enacted after a certain time? Revelation 13:15

“As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places. Many will find refuge in the strongholds of the mountains. Like the Christians of the Piedmont valleys, they will make the high places of the earth their sanctuaries and will thank God for “the munitions of rocks.” Isaiah 33:16...{GC 626.1}

“The heavenly sentinels, faithful to their trust, continue their watch. **Though a general decree has fixed the time when commandment keepers may be put to death, their enemies will in some cases anticipate the decree, and before the time specified, will endeavor to take their lives.** But none can pass the mighty guardians stationed about every faithful soul. Some are assailed in their flight from the cities and villages; but the swords raised against them break and fall powerless as a straw. Others are defended by angels in the form of men of war.” {GC 631.1}

14. How will the saints get through this fearful time? Psalm 25:1-2; 91:1-2; Mathew 6:6

“Yet to human sight it will appear that the people of God must soon seal their testimony with their blood as did the martyrs before them. They themselves begin to fear that the Lord has left them to fall by the hand of their enemies. It is a time of fearful agony. Day and night they cry unto God for deliverance. The wicked exult, and the jeering cry is heard: “Where now is your faith? Why does not God deliver you out of our hands if you are indeed His people?” **But the waiting ones remember Jesus dying upon Calvary’s cross and the chief priests and rulers shouting in mockery: “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.”** Matthew 27:42. **Like Jacob, all are wrestling with God. Their countenances express their internal struggle. Paleness sits upon every face. Yet they cease not their earnest intercession.**” {GC 630.1}

15. What was Darius seeking to do until sundown? Daniel 6:14

16. What will the angels in glory long to do for us once the death decree is passed? See quotation. What will they do for us as they did for Jesus? Luke 22:41-43

“Could men see with heavenly vision, they would behold companies of angels that excel in strength stationed about those who have kept the word of Christ’s patience. With sympathizing tenderness, angels have witnessed their distress and have heard their prayers. They are waiting the word of their Commander to snatch them from their peril. But they must wait yet a little longer. The people of God must drink of the cup and be baptized with the baptism. The very delay, so painful to them, is the best answer to their petitions. As they endeavor to wait trustingly for the Lord to work they are led to exercise faith, hope, and patience, which have been too little exercised during their religious experience. Yet for the elect’s sake the time of trouble will be shortened. “Shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him? ... I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.” Luke 18:7, 8. The end will come more quickly than men expect. The wheat will be gathered and bound in sheaves for the garner of God; the tares will be bound as fagots for the fires of destruction.” {GC 630.2}

17. What words did Darius say to encourage Daniel? Daniel 6:16

18. What words must we remember when the death decree is enacted?

a) Psalm 91:3

b) Psalm 91:5

c) Psalm 91:11-12

19. Read Daniel 6:17. Although the King couldn't change the law or Daniel's outcome, what does the Bible tell us about God?
Matthew 19:26

20. Read Daniel 6:18-22. How was Daniel delivered from the lions?

21. What will God do for us during the Great Time of Trouble when the wicked are seeking to slay us? Psalm 91:14, 15

22. According to Psalm 91:13, what three animals will we tread upon (symbolically)?

23. An adder is another term for a serpent (Psalm 58:4; 140:3). Who do the lion, the adder, and the dragon all represent?
1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9

24. What prophecy will be fulfilled again? Genesis 3:15

25. **Note:** The prophecy that the serpent's head would be bruised was firstly fulfilled in the life of Jesus during His death and resurrection. When the saints of God go through this fearful Time of Trouble, get victory over their sins, remain faithful to God, are sealed, and are delivered from death during the death decree, this will be another fulfillment of the "woman's seed" bruising Satan's head.

26. What happened to the rulers in Medo-Persia who plotted against Daniel? What happened to Haman for his treachery?
Daniel 6:24; Esther 7:10

27. As Daniel continued to reign and prosper in the Medo-Persian Empire, so the righteous will prosper in the heavenly kingdom. Instead of seeing their own destruction, what will the righteous see? Psalm 91:8; Revelation 20:9-10

28. What will be their reward for their fidelity to God? Psalm 91:16; John 3:16

"From the story of Daniel's deliverance we may learn that in seasons of trial and gloom God's children should be just what they were when their prospects were bright with hope and their surroundings all that they could desire. Daniel in the lions' den was the same Daniel who stood before the king as chief among the ministers of state and as a prophet of the Most High. A man whose heart is stayed upon God will be the same in the hour of his greatest trial as he is in prosperity, when the light and favor of God and of man beam upon him. Faith reaches to the unseen, and grasps eternal realities." {PK 545.2}

"Heaven is very near those who suffer for righteousness' sake. Christ identifies His interests with the interests of His faithful people; He suffers in the person of His saints, and whoever touches His chosen ones touches Him. The power that is near to deliver from physical harm or distress is also near to save from the greater evil, making it possible for the servant of God to maintain his integrity under all circumstances, and to triumph through divine grace." {PK 545.3}