



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS



SATRAPS THE RATS WHO SET TRAPS.

PUNISHED FOR PRAYING. Daniel chapter 6!

The reasons for, and the pattern of persecution against people who pray.

Greetings. God bless you. I learn a lot from reading the Bible with children and young people. They have been the inspiration for quite a few of these articles! Today at family devotions, we read about praying and making wise choices, and then we moved into, by the leading of the Spirit, the story of Daniel in the lion's den. **But before he got into the den** of lions, there were many fascinating lessons which I would like to share today. Things I had not fully learned before, and these are all in the first 12 verses of Daniel chapter 6!

Let's read these 12 verses prayerfully and then I would like to share what God I believe showed me about them, and again, as I like to do, apply

them to today's political and religious world!

The plot against Daniel (New

International Version of the Bible)

6 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."

6 So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: "May King Darius live forever!

7 The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone

who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den.

8 Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

9 So King Darius put the decree in writing.

10 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.

11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

12 So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?"

(a satrap in this chapter, was one of the 120 provincial governors in the ancient Persian empire)

Let's begin to unpack this, but first a couple of background facts:

Daniel had already lived quite a long time. He had served under

the reigns of a couple of kings in Babylon, especially King Nebuchadnezzar. Babylon was then overrun by King Darius, the Median King (Viceroy of Cyrus); and later Daniel served under King Cyrus the Persian King ++

Daniel 1:21

And Daniel continued there (in Babylon) even to the first year of King **Cyrus** [at the close of the seventy years' exile of Judah in Babylonia, which Jeremiah had foretold]. (Daniel was probably therefore in his late or mid-fifties age-wise)

Daniel 5:31

And **Darius** the Mede took the kingdom; (of Babylon) he was about sixty-two years old.

So, here was Daniel now in the prime of life to early elderly man, and he had over the years established with God's help, an excellent reputation. Darius, the king in this chapter, was especially fond of him, because of his excellent qualities, 'an excellent spirit was found in him'!

Darius has organised his Kingdom very wisely and in the tradition of empires of that day. There were provinces, and over each province a 'satrap', and eventually over the 120 satraps, were three administrators over them reporting to the king. This is quite a streamlined way of governing and afforded the king an easier way of governing. No one person could handle such a vast empire, plus Darius may still have had many concubines to consider devoting his time to.

Darius was so pleased with Daniel that he wished to make him the second ruler in the kingdom, very similar to how the young Pharaoh of Egypt wished to make Joseph the second ruler.

Obviously this would be a victory for the Lord, for the Lord to have a great man like Daniel who did so much of his work with prayer and fasting and God's wisdom. Here was Daniel, the man of God, living in the very beating heart of the fourth world empire, as its potential second ruler!

But there was a problem.

Wherever God is working, his enemies are also all around. That's the way it was then (550-331 B.C) and that is still the way it is today. **'Satraps', or rats who like to set a trap!**

Daniel was a Jew. He was not neither a Babylonian nor a Mede, nor a Persian, like the new incoming administration. However Daniel had proved himself an excellent administrator. He didn't make mistakes. He must have walked a very fine line and learned how to survive over the years, and to give no **cause** of offence. But all that righteousness and having the Spirit of God comes with a price. Enemies. 'Powerful enemies. Enemies who were very jealous and wanted that power for themselves.

These other administrators and satraps hated him. Perhaps because he was foreign, and also because the devil inspired them to hate him (God's man) without cause! Much like people hated Jesus 'without cause'. (John 15:25)

but 'They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. 'However they did not let that stop them. **Wicked people are not easily deterred from doing evil.**

They realised that they couldn't make a legal political persecution against him stick, so they decided to imagine a situation where they could draft a law via the

king by attacking something in Daniel's religion.

Since they understood Daniel liked to pray three times a day, they fashioned a law to forbid prayer. **They uniquely created a law for no other purpose than to get rid of their spiritual and governmental and political enemy! This will be an important point as we summarise.**

Having probably had some meetings together about this, with the finest Babylonian and Persian food, they agreed on the evil deed; they presented it to the rather naive Darius. Who, not seeing through their duplicity, and apparently seeing no harm in people praying to him for thirty days only, rather than to other gods, visible and invisible, he went ahead and signed the decree, which could never be changed once it was put 'in writing'. The satraps and administrators and other demons were delighted.

The punishment for this great new unchangeable law? To be thrown into a den of lions.

Daniel paid no attention to this. He continued to pray three times a day. Once his enemies learned of it as we all know, they reported it, with barely suppressed glee, to King Darius.

And that was the end of the story, or was it? Poor Daniel, what a cruel fate! We will return to this in a minute.

Applications for today:

This chapter of Daniel 6 is really The Lord's blueprint for us who love Jesus and what we should do and also gives us wisdom in how to behave in the increasingly secularised and demonic and Antichrist world of today.

There are many examples. We can start with prayer itself:

I am sure many of you know that people are being arrested in the USA and UK for 'praying' in the vicinity of Abortion clinics. Sometimes there is only one woman in the area, just silently praying for the unborn babies about to be murdered and for the potential mothers, some of whom, but not all, have been seduced to abort their babies. (see links below)

Because quite a lot of Christians have also followed this strategy or idea of praying near such clinics, the satraps of the modern world have created laws, called the 'Exclusion Zone' that no one could pray inside the geographical zone! That zone was within a few hundred metres of an abortion clinic. The law was created, like Daniel's satraps, to get rid of their enemies, in this case praying people.

But really prayer is only one thing the enemies of God will try to ban. Other laws may be introduced in the western world or even your country, such as:

- illegal to wear a cross
- illegal to speak any word against Muslims (This is being drafted at the moment in the UK) (Islamophobia)
- illegal to home school our children in a Christian way
- Illegal to speak a word against the 'grooming gangs', (also being drafted in the UK) (Islamophobia)
- illegal to tell others about Jesus Christ (this is already law in many countries)

- Illegal to gather together in a meeting with other believers, (as we saw happen in some countries during the Covid19 time), especially in the UK and Canada and parts of the USA.
- Illegal to sing to Jesus! (yes, it is being prepared)
- illegal let us not forget to speak against the doctrine or plans of the LGBTQI (homophobic)

These are only a few of the ones existing or in the pipeline. Once secular enemies and religious enemies feel they are ready, they **will** unleash a reign of terror, comparable or exceeding the French Revolution, as predicted in Revelation 13.

Closing: this is how it goes down, with few exceptions both in Daniel 6 and today:

- Secular and demonic enemies arise.
- They fashion laws to eradicate God and His people (or so they hope)
- the people of God defy the laws (or should)
- they are faced with prison, torture or death
- In some cases they are delivered and survive the test the Lord blesses them with.
- The enemies of God fall and die in God's good time. Sometimes 'hung by their own petard'* as we see in the full chapter 6 of Daniel. (and also with Haman in Esther 7:9-10) Daniel is

delivered from this test, his enemies on the other hand are immediately punished (by the King and the Lord) and are eaten up before their bones even reach the bottom of the lion's den).

Well dear reader, I suggest we all get a lot more prepared for the tests of Daniel.

The laws are coming, the severe tests are coming. What matters most is our reactions when we are either arrested, banned or cancelled, ostracised or financially impaired through it or all the above! **Now** is a good time to get ready in mind and heart for this.

Let's take some time this week, read the whole chapter, study some of these links below, and above all pray that God will get you ready for 'lo, it will come'. (Habakkuk 2:3)

Amen?

Love in Christ

Jerry for the WCF TEAM

[Medo Persian Empire Timeline, Facts and fall of Persian Empire](#)

[Superbook - Roar! - Season 1 Episode 7 - Full Episode \(Official HD Version\) Superbook nails this story of Daniel chapter 6. Good for kids and adults.](#)

[++ Cyrus is mentioned in the Bible many times, especially in the book of Ezra. His birth and name were prophesied 150 years beforehand by Isaiah the prophet! BibleGateway - Keyword Search: Cyrus see all the scriptures from the book of Isaiah ion this link](#)

[Was Cyrus the king prophesied before he was born - Google Search amazing stuff? More proof the Bible is the Word of God, not that we necessarily need 'proof'.](#)

[Prison sentences for praying outside abortion clinics | Round the Table Discussions and examples of prayer in the UK](#)

[The Power of Prayer Outside Abortion Clinics Catholic priest and other Catholics praying in the USA](#)

[MP decries arrest of woman arrested who prayed silently near abortion clinic | CARE](#)

[* hung by your own petard hung by your own petard - Google Search](#)

[Police break up church service breaking lockdown rules in Wales](#)

[pastor arthur churh visited by police in canada during covid - Google Search brilliant video. A Canadian pastor defies the police, this pastor grew up under communism in Poland. He recognises tyranny when he sees it.](#)

[pastors arrested during covid - Google Search](#)

[Thousands sing for Jesus Christ † #god #lord #jesus #jesuschrist #singing #prayer #christian maybe illegal one day?](#)

2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

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