



Going Deeper Daniel 6

Government Oppression, Faithful Prayer, and the Night the Lions Fasted

<p>PART A <u>Chapter 1</u> Babylonian Court. Daniel Refuses to eat the king's food. He and his friends are vindicated.</p> <p>TWO IMAGES <u>Chapter 2</u> Nebuchadnezzar's dream image. <u>Chapter 3</u> Nebuchadnezzar's golden image.</p> <p>TWO KINGS DISCIPLINED <u>Chapter 4</u> The discipline and restoration of Nebuchadnezzar. <u>Chapter 5</u> The "writing on the wall" and the destruction of Belshazzar. The end of Babylonian supremacy.</p>	<p>PART B <u>Chapter 6</u> Medo-Persian Court. Daniel refuses to obey the king's command and refrain from praying to God. He is vindicated.</p> <p>TWO VISIONS OF BEASTS <u>Chapter 7</u> Four beasts. <u>Chapter 8</u> Two beasts.</p> <p>TWO WRITINGS EXPLAINED <u>Chapter 9</u> The prophecy in the book of Jeremiah about the destruction and restoration of Jerusalem. <u>Chapters 10-13</u> The "Writing of Truth" And the eventual destruction of "the king". The end of world history.</p>
--	--

<p><u>Chapter 1</u> Nebuchadnezzar reverently places God's vessels in his idol's temple.</p> <p>Daniel and others refuse to indulge in pagan impurities.</p> <p>Court officials sympathetic.</p> <p>Daniel and his colleagues' physical and mental powers vindicated.</p> <p>They are promoted to high office.</p>	<p><u>Chapter 6</u> Darius bans prayer to God for thirty days.</p> <p>Daniel refuses to cease practicing the Jewish religion.</p> <p>Court officials intrigue against him.</p> <p>Daniel's political loyalty to the king vindicated.</p> <p>He is restored to high office.</p>
--	--

1. Daniel 6 refers to Daniel in 3 specific ways; faithful, no error or fault was found in him. If your life were to be probed, "dug up", or exposed, is it ready to stand the test of a full audit? Maybe another way to think about this is to ask the question; "What spot in your life are you most fearful will get "found out"? For further discussion look to the elder qualifications in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

2. Darius, Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar (and all other “kings”) lead their empires by decrees with threats (“you better or else”). While none of us have that kind of influence, what can we learn about leadership from reading these stories? Where can you leverage your leadership (through parenting, through ministry, through work, etc) and lead more as a “servant-leader” and less like an evil dictator?

“The best leaders are clear. They continually light the way, and in the process, let each person know that what they do makes a difference. The best test as a leader is: Do those served grow as persons; do they become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become leaders?”

– Robert K. Greenleaf

3. Knowing full well the “laws” of the Medes and Persians and King Darius, Daniel acts defiantly and considers their requests and then decides to act faithfully in obedience to God despite the law. How does this act of civil disobedience fit with Paul’s teaching on governments in Romans 13? What are examples of healthy civil disobedience? What about poor examples?

“It is right to resist what God has ordained in order to obey what God has commanded.

- John Piper

4. Daniel pauses 3 times a day despite his circumstances and gets down on his knees and prays to the Lord of heaven and earth. This is simply a great spot to do a personal evaluation on your own prayer life (and ours corporately). Are we postured, positioned and humble knowing that our help comes from the maker of heaven and earth?

Daniel is so effective because 3 times a day he turns his heart AWAY from the city of Babylon and tunes/turns it to the city of God.

- Tim Keller