

BOOK OF DANIEL

Chapter 6

Lesson # 7

In **Dan. 6** things have changed for Daniel. The Babylonian empire, which once was great and powerful, is now gone forever. The head of gold has been succeeded by the chest and arms of silver – the Medo-Persian empire. The armies of Cyrus conquered Babylon and Darius the Mede is ruling as King. Things are going well for Daniel until jealousy strikes.

I. **DANIEL UNDER MEDO-PERSIAN RULE (Read Dan. 6:1-5)**

A. In **vs. 1** we read that Darius appointed 120 *satraps* to rule his kingdom (See Figure 1 from the *Tyndale Bible Dictionary*, Libronix). What is a satrap?

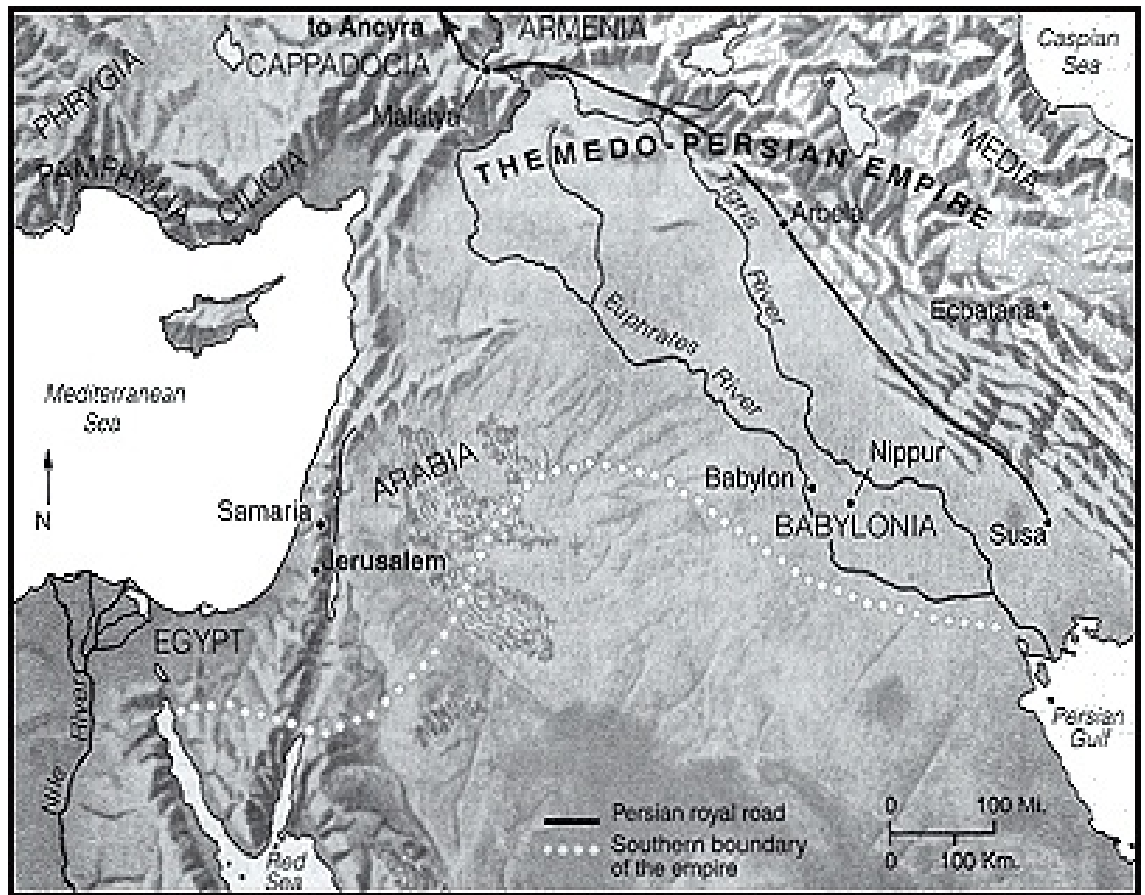


Figure 1: The Medo-Persian Empire included the land of Media and Persia, much of the area shown on the map, and more. The Jewish exiles were concentrated in the area around Nippur in the Babylonian province. The decree by King Cyrus that allowed the Israelites to return to their homeland and rebuild the temple was discovered in the palace at Ecbatana.

B. According to **vs. 2** what position was Daniel given?

- C. How would you describe Daniel's career while in captivity? What can we learn about the promotions and demotions in Daniel's life from the verses below?
1. **Dan. 2:21**
 2. **Dan. 4:17**
 3. **John 19:11**
 4. **Rom. 13:1**
 5. How do the truths in these verses relate to every Christian today?
- D. In **vs. 3** we are told several things about Daniel.
1. What do we learn about Daniel's accomplishments?
 2. What do we learn was the reason for his accomplishments?
 3. What was the outcome?
 4. What can we learn and apply from **vs. 3** and Daniel's life?
 5. Write down what you learn from the verses below which Daniel models in this text.
 - a. **Phil. 2:14-16**
 - b. **Tit. 2:6-8**
 - c. **I Pet. 2:12, 15**

d. I Pet. 3:14-16

- E. How did Daniel's promotion and excellent work ethic affect the other leaders in the kingdom according to **vs. 4**? What did they do and what motivated them?
1. Were the other leaders successful in their pursuits? Why?
 2. What three specific things were absent from Daniel's life and what do they mean?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 3. Does this kind of thing happen to Christians today? If so, should they respond the same? Why or why not?
- F. When the leaders couldn't find any negligence in Daniel's work, what did they do after that according to **vs. 5**?
1. Are Christians today ever persecuted in respect to the law of their God? List some examples if you can think of them.
 2. Harold Chadwick in his work *The New Foxe's book of Martyrs*, traces the martyrdom of Christians through the years of the Roman Emperors, through the thousand years of relative peace, and into the time of the height of the Roman Catholic Church's power. He writes, "*Only this time the persecutions would not come from pagans, but from those who called themselves Christians, and whose fury and sadistic actions against those who held in faith to Christ would far exceed the cruelest imaginations of the pagans.*" Why were so many godly men like John Hus, John Wycliffe, Hugh Latimer, Nicolas Ridley, and countless others executed, burned at the stake and tortured to death in the most cruel ways by the Roman Catholic Church? What were their crimes and why did the Roman Catholic Church do this?

3. Why do Christians often have to suffer and even die for doing what is right, living holy lives, and loving other people?

4. Look up the Scriptures below and write down what they teach you about the persecution and martyrdom of believers.
 - a. **Jn. 15:18-25**

 - b. **Acts 7:51-53**

 - c. **Eph. 6:12**

 - d. **II Tim. 3:12**

 - e. **I Jn. 3:11-13**

 - f. What truths can we apply from these verses and from what Daniel went through to our own lives?

II. JEALOUS LEADERS PLOT AGAINST DANIEL (Read Dan. 6:6-9)

- A. When **vs. 6** says the commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king, what does it mean that they came by agreement?
 1. What was the first thing these men said to the King?

 2. Do you think these men were concerned about the King and his health?

- B. What, according to **vs. 7**, was the idea these men had?
1. How did they present the idea and who did it appear to benefit and honor?
 2. What was the real motive behind the idea?
 3. What do you think caused these men to hate Daniel so?
 4. How did they arrive at their plan?
 5. What do we learn about Daniel's character from their plan?
- C. According to **vs. 8** what was unique about the law of the Medes and Persians?
- D. In **vs. 9** we read that the King signed the injunction that only he was to be worshiped for thirty days. Why do you think he signed the injunction?
- E. Look up the verses below and note what they teach you.
1. **Ex. 20:1-5**
 2. **Psa. 115:4-8**
 3. **Isa. 42:8**
 4. **Isa. 44:9-20**

5. **Jer. 10:2-5**

6. **Hab. 2:18-20**

7. **Jn. 5:22-23**

8. Look up several definitions of idolatry. Write your own concise definition.

9. Do you think self idolatry is common today? In what ways is it common? List some examples.

10. What are some other things besides self which become idols in people's lives?

11. Look up the verses below. Write down what they teach you about idolatry and list the specific idolatrous acts mentioned.
 - a. **I Sam. 15:23**

 - b. **Col. 3:5**

 - c. Did these two verses change your definition of idolatry? If so, how?

 - d. Based on these two verses, how prevalent is idolatry today?

 - e. Why are the sins mentioned in these verses forms of idolatry?

- f. What practical application can be derived from the lessons learned in the book of Daniel and the other verses about idolatry and the lives of Christians today?

III. DANIEL SERVES GOD RATHER THAN MEN (Read Dan. 6:10-15)

A. Examine **vs. 10** then answer the following questions.

1. What did Daniel know?
2. What did he do?
3. Why didn't he close his windows?
4. Why did he defy the injunction?
5. Were Daniel's actions unique to this one situation?
6. This text is often used as one of the classic texts on civil disobedience. What is civil disobedience? Look up the texts below and write down what they teach you about this matter.
 - a. **Esther 4:13-17**
 - b. **Dan. 3:16-18**
 - c. **Luke 6:3-4** compare with **Lev. 24:9** and **I Sam. 21:1-6**
 - d. **Acts 4:17-20**

e. **Acts 5:27-29**

f. Why do some pro-life people argue that abortion is wrong and that we must do everything we can to stop it, even if it means breaking the law?

g. One of the classic historical examples of civil disobedience is when the thirteen British colonies declared independence from Great Britain. Read the text of the Declaration of Independence below with a marker or highlighter in hand, mark all the reasons or rationale given for disobeying the King of Great Britain.

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred. to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

- h. Do you think the civil disobedience of the founders of the United States was biblically justified? If so, how and according to what Scriptures or biblical principles?

- i. Getting back to Dan. 6:10 consider that Daniel 1) went up to his roof chamber to pray, 2) prayed facing Jerusalem, and 3) did this three times a day. Was this something Daniel had to do or something optional?
- (1) **I Kings 8:44-52**
 - (2) **Psa. 57:116-17**
 - (3) Did Daniel have biblical justification for what he did?
 - (4) Why didn't Daniel just close his windows and pray for the next thirty days? Why did he pray with his windows open after having found out about the injunction?
 - (5) What do Daniel's actions tell us about Daniel's character? Should we model these same character traits?
 - (6) What major sin must be overcome in order to live like Daniel? Look up the verses below and write down what they teach you about this sin.
 - (a) **I Sam. 15:24**
 - (b) **Prov. 29:25**
 - (c) **Mt. 10:28**
 - (d) **Jn. 9:22**
 - (e) **Jn. 12:42-43**

(f) **Gal. 2:11-13**

(g) Do you think the sin mentioned in the verses above is common in the church today? List some examples.

B. According to **vs. 11** what did the leaders who encouraged the king to sign the injunction do? Why?

C. In **vs. 12** what question did the leaders ask the king?

1. Why did they ask the king this question when they already knew the answer?

2. How did the king respond?

D. After hearing the King's response to their question, what did the leaders do next according to **vs. 13**?

E. According to **vs. 14** what three things did the King attempt to do?

1.

2.

3.

4. What do these responses tell us about the King's relationship with Daniel?

- F. Why, in **vs. 15**, do we read that the leaders came back a second time to remind the king of what they and the king already knew? What does this tell us?
1. What lessons can we learn from the King and his actions?
 2. What lessons can we learn from the leaders and their actions?
 3. What advice or wisdom could you give to a person in a position of power and authority that might prevent them from getting into a situation like this?

IV. **DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN (Read Dan. 6:16-24)**

- A. According to **vs. 16** what did the king do?
1. Why did the king do this to Daniel?
 2. What did the king say to Daniel and what does this tell us about the king and what he was thinking?
- B. What is going on in **vs. 17**? Why did they do this?
- C. What four things are mentioned about the king that night according to **vs. 18**? What do they teach us?

D. Answer the questions below concerning **vss. 19-20**.

1. When did the king get up the next day?
2. Where did he go after waking up?
3. What did the King say after arriving at the lion's den and what does this tell us?
4. Sometimes we find ourselves in circumstances where we do not know what to do. What can we learn from the King about responding properly during those times?

E. According to **vss. 21-23**:

1. How did Daniel respond to the King and how was this similar or different than the leaders in **vs. 6**?
2. What did Daniel tell Darius that God did?
3. What did Daniel say the Angel did?
4. What two parties did Daniel say he was innocent before?
5. Does God always respond in the same way towards those who are being punished unjustly? If not, then what is the lesson/s to be learned from God's response to the King's and Daniel's prayers?
6. What did the king do once he found out Daniel was unharmed?
7. What reason is given for Daniel being unharmed in **vs. 23**?
 - a. How often should Christians today follow Daniel's example?

- b. What is the opposite of following Daniel's example?
- c. If you haven't learned the lesson Daniel learned, how can you get to the place where you live like that?

F. After rescuing Daniel from the lion's den, what did the king do according to **vs.24**? What was the outcome of the king's actions?

V. **DARIUS' PROCLAMATION (Read Dan. 6:25-28)**

- A. According to **vs. 25** what did the king do and to whom?
- B. According to **vss. 25-26** what three things did the king say to the people of his kingdom?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4. If Darius was a pagan king, why did he say these things?
- C. In **vss. 26-27** the king describes the God of Daniel. Write down each statement and what it tells you about God.
 - 1. **Vs. 26**
 - 2. **Vs. 26**
 - 3. **Vs. 26**
 - 4. **Vs. 26**

5. **Vs. 27** (two things)
 6. **Vs. 27** (two things)
 7. **Vs. 27**
 8. We may not find ourselves in the same situation as Daniel but in what ways does God deliver Christians today?
- D. What do we learn was the outcome of all this according to **vs. 28**?
- E. Summarize the grand lessons to be learned from this chapter in your own words.

“Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him.”
Isaiah 3:10

It is well with the righteous always. If it had said, “Say ye to the righteous, that it is well with him in his prosperity,” we must have been thankful for so great a boon, for prosperity is an hour of peril, and it is a gift from heaven to be secured from its snares: or if it had been written, “It is well with him when under persecution,” we must have been thankful for so sustaining an assurance, for persecution is hard to bear; but when no time is mentioned, all time is included. God’s “shalls” must be understood always in their largest sense. From the beginning of the year to the end of the year, from the first gathering of evening shadows until the day-star shines, in all conditions and under all circumstances, it shall be well with the righteous. It is so well with him that we could not imagine it to be better, for he is well fed, he feeds upon the flesh and blood of Jesus; he is well clothed, he wears the imputed righteousness of Christ; he is well housed, he dwells in God; he is well married, his soul is knit in bonds of marriage union to Christ; he is well provided for, for the Lord is his Shepherd; he is well endowed, for heaven is his inheritance. It is well with the righteous—well upon divine authority; the mouth of God speaks the comforting assurance. O beloved, if God declares that all is well, ten thousand devils may declare it to be ill, but we laugh them all to scorn. Blessed be God for a faith which enables us to believe God when the creatures contradict him. It is, says the Word, at all times well with thee, thou righteous one; then, beloved, if thou canst not see it, let God’s word stand thee in stead of sight; yea, believe it on divine authority more confidently than if thine eyes and thy feelings told it to thee. Whom God blesses is blest indeed, and what his lip declares is truth most sure and steadfast.¹

¹C. H. Spurgeon, Morning and Evening : Daily Readings (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1995), April 14 PM.