

Part 18 — “Collusion Against God’s People” — 2 October 2022

**Introduction:**

After the conquest of Babylon by the Medes and Persians, Daniel found himself living under the rule of Darius the Mede (Cyraxares II). During this time, Daniel had sought the Lord in prayer to better understand the timing of what had been prophesied by Jeremiah. Sometime after the angel Gabriel had come to him and given the prophecy of the seventy weeks (Daniel 9), the events of Daniel 6 transpired.

**Main Point:** As we live in fallen world among those who do not believe, we should expect that at times we will face \_\_\_\_\_ to the faith even as we seek to live as God’s faithful witnesses.

**The Final Test of Daniel’s Faith—Daniel 6:1-13**

**Daniel Restored to Power (6:1-3)**

Observations

1. Under Medo-Persia, rule of the empire was reorganized.  
*“120 satraps”* *“three supervisors”*
  
  2. Daniel was once again given a position of \_\_\_\_\_ in the government and distinguished himself from all other officials.  
*“he had an extraordinary spirit”*
- ⇒ Daniel had been raised to high office just before the fall of Babylon and it is possible the Persians simply retained certain officials with extensive experience in governing. It is also likely that Daniel’s prediction of the fall of Babylon would have been known.

**Key Point:** God had sovereignly placed Daniel in this position of influence which could have played a crucial role in the \_\_\_\_\_ from exile and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jerusalem.

“From God’s perspective, this was a significant time, which accounts for the satanic opposition. Notice several important events going on about this time during 539-38 BC. On Oct. 29, 539, Cyrus entered Babylon, and it is very possible (maybe even probable) that Daniel met him at this time. If so, he may even have shared with him the prophecy of Isa. 44:28-45:7 in which God predicted the coming of Cyrus (by name!) about 150 years before he conquered Babylon. Since Daniel was appointed to a very high position... Cyrus would certainly have known of him.” —J. Paul Tanner

Ezra 1:2-3—<sup>2</sup> “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. <sup>3</sup>Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel..”

**The Plot Against Daniel (6:4-9)**

Observations

1. Daniel’s fellow administrators then conspired against him.  
*“some pretext in connection with administrative matters”*
  
- ⇒ They were unsuccessful because Daniel was neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- ⇒ They identified his \_\_\_\_\_ identity as his only vulnerability.
  
2. These officials then manipulated Darius into issuing a royal decree which was favorable to their purposes.  
*“To all...it seemed like a good idea for a royal edict to be issued”*
  
- ⇒ Although the decree was limited in its \_\_\_\_\_, it carried a severe \_\_\_\_\_ for its violation.

**Key Point:** The decree was religious in nature, but the king likely saw it as \_\_\_\_\_ beneficial.

“The suggested mode of compelling every subject in the former Babylonian domain to acknowledge the authority of Persia seemed like a statesmanlike measure that would contribute to the unification of the Middle and Near East. The time limit of one month seemed reasonable. After it the people could resume their accustomed worship.” — G.L. Archer

“The probability is that Darius regarded this act as a pledge of loyalty to himself and a token of their desire to respect his authority to the utmost.”  
 — John Walvoord

## The Actions of Daniel & His Antagonists (6:10-13)

### Observations

1. The issuing of the decree did not in any way alter Daniel's daily habits of worship.

*Dan. 6:10—When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.*

*His worship of the Lord was \_\_\_\_\_* (1 Kings 8:27-30)

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*His worship of the Lord was \_\_\_\_\_* (Psa. 55:17)

2. Daniel's enemies had rightly anticipated his response to the edict.

*"[they] found Daniel praying and asking for help before his God"*

3. Daniel's enemies then made their accusations against Daniel to the king.

*"Did you not issue an edict...?"*

*"Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, pays no attention to you..."*

**Key Point:** Daniel chose to \_\_\_\_\_ the command of the king so that he might continue to obey the commands of God, even under penalty of death.

*"If in chapter 3 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were pressured to do what their faith prohibited, Daniel is now pressured to refrain from doing what is faith requires." —T. Brensinger*

## Living Faithfully in "Babylon"

- In a fallen world, our faith will be \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the various seasons of life.

*1 Pet. 1:6-7—<sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

*Our faith will often be tested through \_\_\_\_\_.*

*"We should not conflate being socially or professionally marginalized with prison camps and the executioner's bullet...But know this too: if we latter-day believers are not able and willing to be faithful in the relatively small trials we face now, there is no reason to think that we will have what it takes to endure serious persecution..." —Rod Dreher, *Live Not By Lies**

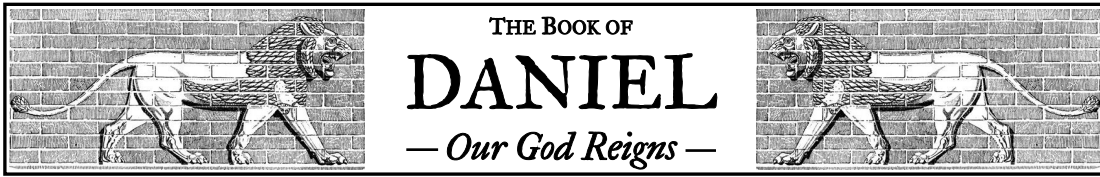
- If we are to suffer in the world at the hands of our enemies, it should be because of our faithfulness to \_\_\_\_\_.

*1 Pet. 4:14-16, 19—<sup>14</sup>If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup>But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup>Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name... <sup>19</sup>Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.*

\* It is possible to suffer for our own \_\_\_\_\_!

\* The suffering that brings glory to God is that which \_\_\_\_\_ that of the Lord Jesus!

*"Without being willing to suffer, even die for Christ, it's just hypocrisy. It's just a search for comfort...When I meet with brothers in faith, especially young people, I ask them: name three values as Christians that you are ready to die for. This is where you see the border between those who are serious about their faith and those who aren't...You need to confess [Christ] and worship him in such a way that people can see that this world is a lie..." —Yuri Sipko (Russian Baptist Pastor), quoted in *Live Not By Lies**



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- ⇒ Although the decree was limited in its **duration**, it carried a severe **punishment** for its violation.

**Key Point:** The decree was religious in nature, but the king likely saw it as politically beneficial.

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*His worship of the Lord was reverent* (1 Kings 8:27-30)

*His worship of the Lord was public* (Psa. 57:9-10)

*His worship of the Lord was consistent* (Psa. 55:17)

2. Daniel's enemies had rightly anticipated his response to the edict.  
“*[they] found Daniel praying and asking for help before his God*”
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“*Did you not issue an edict...?*”  
  
“*Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, pays no attention to you...*”

**Key Point:** Daniel chose to disobey the command of the king so that he might continue to obey the commands of God, even under penalty of death.

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### *Our faith will often be tested through suffering*

“We should not conflate being socially or professionally marginalized with prison camps and the executioner's bullet...But know this too: if we latter-day believers are not able and willing to be faithful in the relatively small trials we face now, there is no reason to think that we will have what it takes to endure serious persecution...” —Rod Dreher, *Live Not By Lies*

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