

# A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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## DANIEL, “KNEELED ON HIS KNEES”

Daniel 6:10

*“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.”*

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“In the previous chapter we discussed the close of an epoch and an era, that of the golden head, the first great empire of the times of the Gentiles, the kingdom of Babylon. It is now gone forever. The golden head has fallen, and the breast of silver, with its arms of Media and Persia, now reigns supreme in the earth. But this man Daniel – holy, saintly man of God – continues in power, in grace, in glory, and in gracious acceptance.” (Criswell. Vol. 3. P. 130) Darius is now the king in Babylon. “*And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.*” (Vs. 5:31) Daniel, the servant of God is approaching 90 years of age. He has been faithful to God all the years of his captivity. God has blessed him with a powerful position in the kingdom of Babylon. Because of his faithfulness God placed him above 120 governors in the realm. “*And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.*” (Vs. 6:2) Verse 3 of chapter six tells us that “*Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole*

*realm.*” “That word ‘preferred’ in the original Aramaic, has in its meaning, ‘he out shown them all. . . . He was preferred above the presidents and princes because of an excellent spirit within him” (Criswell. Vol. 3. P. 131) Because of his position he was the object of the intense jealousy of the other governors. They were so jealous they hatched a plan they hoped would end in Daniel’s death. They knew that Daniel was devoted to his God. The best way to trap a man of character is in his devotion to truth. “It is known in advance what an honest man will do in certain circumstances. Control the circumstances and you control Him.” (Wycliffe. P. 787) The plot to catch him praying to his God in violation of the order of the king was hatched. The enemies had only to wait till he came home. His habit was to honor God by opening his window toward Jerusalem and praying for his people three times a day.

The remarkable thing about this story is that Daniel knew about this decree from the king and the plot of the governors. It did not cause him to compromise. He could have simply postponed his prayer time for thirty days, the time limit of the decree. He could have reasoned that his life and influence were worth more than the prayer time and simply failed to pray for that time. He could have hidden his

prayer time by closing the shutters to his window. He did none of these things. Perhaps he heard with the ear of the prophet the words of the Savior spoken 1000's of years later. *"But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."* (Matthew 10:33) He could have compromised but he did not. *"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."* (Vs. 10) He did it knowing what it would probably cost him. The scheming governors had already determined, *"that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions."* (Vs. 7) Today we have the benefit of knowing how the story ends. He did not. He had to conclude that he would be killed in a den of lions. He understood this and chose to remain true to his faith despite what others might do to him. Jesus said in Revelation 2:10, *"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."*

Daniel refused to hide or change his faith and practice. The time may soon come to America when the Christian will be forced to make a choice as Daniel did. “It is not about what you say in the cushy protection of your church pew at home around people who believe just like you do. No, it’s about what you do in the face of opposition, of mockery, and – most importantly – of death. It’s about whether or not you’re willing to take a stand for what you say you believe in.” (Motivationtruth.com written by Adrienne Ross)

The faith of believers is coming into question in America. One of the leading candidates for president in the 2016 presidential election made a statement to the effect that those who oppose same sex marriage on religious grounds who have “deep seated cultural codes, religious beliefs and structural biases have to be changed” to be acceptable in American society. If this continues, an exposition of Romans chapter 1 in a church will be considered hate speech and will be punished. Christians must decide what they will do when faced with the financial loss, discrimination and even imprisonment over these issues. The Scriptures are clear in their teachings. Will we

capitulate or stand as Daniel did and trust God to accomplish His purpose through our stand.

Dare to be a Daniel  
Dare to stand alone!  
Dare to have a purpose firm!  
Dare to make it known.  
(Phillip Bliss, 1873)

