

FBC-3/6/83
Pastors Class
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From Tape/mc

DANIEL

LESSON #7

DANIEL IN THE LIONS DEN!

(LORD LAYS LOCKJAW ON LIONS)
Ch. 6

Open your Bibles to Dan. 6. In the third chap. of Daniel, we have Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego being thrown in a fiery furnace. Daniel is not with them. Where is he? We don't know. When we come to the 6th Chap., we do not know where Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are. But Daniel comes back on the scene and he, by himself, is thrown into the lions den.

Now in the meantime, quite a few years have passed and you have a different government. Different policies. Nebuchadnezzar used the fiery furnace but Darius, a Persian or a Mede, uses the lions den. As a matter of ~~af~~ fact, it would have been impossible for Darius to have used the fiery furnace - the Persians worshipped fire. They would never use fire as an instrument of punishment. So he used the lions den.

But there were two fearsome types of punishment. There was the fiery furnace, used by the Babylonians. There was the lions den, used by the Persians. There was a worse form of punishment than this and that was to hang a man on a tree. The Phoenecians initiated the cross. Originally, the Phoenecians would boil a person in oil and he died in three minutes. Well, that was just too merciful. The Phoenecians ~~six~~ said 'we can't let people get by with just three minutes torture'. So many hundreds of years before Christ, they said 'what we'll do, we'll hang them in a tree and they'll linger there for five days'.

The Romans like this for criminals and non-Roman citizens so they picked this up and I thought it would be interesting for you to know that it was on that tree that Jesus died. A miracle of God that He died in six hours. Generally lingered for days and that was the misery of the cross. Course if you stay

at eleven o'clock, I'll show you the real misery of the cross and it was not in that. Something far worse than that. As we try to describe the sufferings of Jes. in His body, in His heart and in His soul. The sufferings of His body were great, but nothing compared to His heart. The suffering of His heart was great but nothing compared to the sufferings of His soul.

If you're not committed elsewhere (if so, be faithful) but if not, you need to hear the message on the Sufferings of Jesus in His Body, His Heart and His Soul.

All right. Dan. 6: V.1(read) here we come across the character of Darius. The critics of the Bible used to say 'you see Daniel is unreliable because we have no record of a Darius in secular Persian history. Well, the archeologists have discovered who they believe Darius is. Darius is not the name of a man - basically - it's the title. It means the 'holder of the septer'. Darius, we believe, was a man by the name of Googaroo. Archeologists have discovered he was ruling there with Cyrus and so he was Googaroo Darius or Googaroo, holder of the septer.

This certainly seems plausible. When the evidence is all in, the ~~Rix~~ Bible always stands. Don't forget it. If you're in school and some professor says 'now we just - this just doesn't add up'- remember when the evidence is in, the Bible always stands. Be not deceived.

Notice, Darius is putting one hundred and twenty princes throughout his vast kingdom, which should be over the whole kingdom.

V. 2(read) why would Daniel be first? He's a hold-over from the old Babylonian administration, which shows, of course, what a remarkable man he is. He's

been right there around the White House and all that politicking and all that corruption, but he's held his life up above it all. He's been such a mighty man of God and wisdom, until pagan kings have to recognize him. So he's first of the three presidents. It doesn't say, but it's implied, that there were 40 of these princes under each of the three presidents. Making a hundred and twenty.

V. 3(read) 'preferred' or 'he distinguished himself' above.....'spirit was in him'. See? He distinguished ~~xxx~~ himself and was therefore, preferred above this entire crowd, of a hundred twenty three because of an excellent spirit. Which speaks of his true Godliness. 'The king Thought' or literally 'planned' to set him over the whole realm'. He was so outstanding, though he was not a Persian, he was a Jew, he was so tremendous.

V. 4(read) 'occasion' (pretext). They tried to find something wrong in his administration. They couldn't find a thing. Latter part of verse: you just don't find this statement about many men in all the world. The closest statement to it would be Pilot's statement about Jesus. 'I find no fault in Him'. Here it says 'neither was there any error or fault'. What does it mean? Was Daniel sinless? It doesn't mean Daniel was sinless; it means he was blameless.

The Bible calls upon us to be blameless and that is not sinning with motive. Not sinning purposely.- Daniel didn't. He was a Holy man. As a matter of fact, the more I study him^{him}(and of course I've studied/as I've never studied him) and I've concluded he might be the greatest man in the Bible. Now my wife, Doris, says Moses was. Well, I don't know. Moses did commit a sin and seemed to have a temper. Daniel undoubtedly would have to rank as one of the truly, great, Godly men, who ever lived.

He, certainly, is a type of Jesus.

V. 5(read) 'occasion' (fault). They said 'if we trap him, we have got to devise some sort of law that would make it necessary for him to violate his convictions'. Or 'his spiritual or religious scruples. If we can pass a law that would violate it, there's no question but what this man would stand with God rather than go with us'. Quite a testimony, isn't it? He won't compromise.

'His soul is not for sale; he will not - we know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, we can trap him this way'. So they set about to do this. You say 'well, why did they hate Daniel like they did?' Well, Daniel's saved and they're unsaved. The world doesn't like the Xtn. Carnality doesn't like spirituality. Daniel was Godly = they were ungodly. They were corrupt politicians; Daniel didn't play their political games with them. Daniel didn't attend their cocktail parties and their wild immorality things.

He wasn't a part of that. He wasn't a part of the Washington crowd. He wasn't with the 'in' crowd at all. They didn't like -- people don't like that when you're not with the 'in' crowd. Daniel is great courage to you who are fighting the battle of being God's person rather than being the 'in' crowd. He just wouldn't be the 'in' crowd. Daniel is old - 83. What does this say to us? God never retires a man from service. He's 83. He's gonna do his greatest work at 83.

John WESley was preaching with undiminished power at 88. Michael Angelo painted the 'Last Judgment' at 89. Edison was inventing at 90. Are you about to say 'well, I'm through because I'm about 50 or 60 yrs. old'? You may be just at the place God wants to use you as He's never used you'. Retirement is political. The Bible knows nothing about retirement. Nothing about retirement, at all. Caleb did his greatest work at 85.

But they don't like old age, you see. Our culture doesn't like old age, the

one in which you and I live. They didn't like this young man. And they're envious and they're anti-Semitic. They're against the Jews. See? So it says

V. 6(read) 'assembled' (consented together). 'Live forever' which was a characteristic way of addressing the king. And here's what they said to him,

V. 7(read) 'consulted' (consented together) now they said all of them. It was not all of them. Daniel had some people that didn't. They had a secret meeting, though. Daniel wasn't invited. But they said 'we got together and we agreed there should be a royal statute (or law passed). 'Petition' (prayer). Now here'll be the decree: everybody who prays for the next thirty days, has got to pray unto you. Well, that was quite an appeal to the vanity of the Persian king. They already thought they were divine anyway and this flattered him.

Don't ever let anyone flatter you. YOU know the truth. He knew he was not to be prayed to. But he fell for this. King - not for a day - not queen for a day - but king for thirty days. How would you like to be a king - or God - for thirty days? God - not king - for thirty days? Well, that's what they're saying. That's what the statute provided for. God for thirty days. Kenny, you might call this, if you ever preach on this: 'God for Thirty Days'.

Interesting sermon topic. God for Thirty Days. I call this chapter 'The Lord lays Lockjaw upon the Lousy Lions'. You might call it that. A lot of ways you can work with this. Just marvelous - filled with such Truth. So they

V. 8(read) 'decree' now the Hebrew says 'the BINDING decree'. There is the origin of the law of the Medes and Persians. How many of you have heard of

the Law of the Medes and Persians, raise your hand. You've heard that referred to, the Law of the Medes and Persians, raise your hand. Well, it's rather a common expression. What is the law of the Medes and Persians? Well, it's a law that can't be changed. How did it originate? ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Well, man by the name of Darius III passed the death penalty upon a man by the name of Karidamos. After he had passed it, he knew it was wrong to kill this man but since he had decreed he should die, he went on and had him killed. Because he says 'I am infallible. I make no mistakes. To change this law would be admission I'm wrong.' So a Law of the Medes and Persians is a law you can't change, even if it's wrong. YOU just don't change the Law of the Medes and Persians.

The Constitution of the U.S. is, in a way, a Law of the Medes and Persians. It's hard to change. Whether you like the Electoral College or not, you have to live with it. There are a lot of things you get in the Constitution it's hard to change. I remember in my home state of N. Carolina, used to speak of duels. You couldn't hold a public office. Why no one even knew what a duel was. ~~XXXXXX~~ I asked 'what is a duel?' That was 200 yrs. old- people used to fight duels. But that was in the Constitution of N. Carolina - still in there. You read the Constitution and you find some of the laws of the Medes and Persians. It's hard to change it.

But that's what the Law of the Medes and Persians is - could not be changed because the kings supposed to be infallible and ~~fxd~~ divine. So they wanted to nail this down and so they said 'now here is a law that will not be changed. Once you set it up, you not gonna crawfish on us. You're not gonna back out on it'.

V. 9(read) you see, he put his John Hancock to it and they saw to it because they realized this was all hypocrisy and they realized he might catch on and so they're doing everything they can to be sure they've got it nailed down in law and not just the law but the Law of the Medes and Persians.

V. 10(read) all these verbs are present participles : he KEPT ON kneeling; and praying and KEPT ON giving thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. Isn't that beautiful? In other words, he didn't change his lifestyle. Isn't it wonderful to live prepared to die? If you knew Jesus was coming today, would you change your lifestyle? Somebody asked John ~~WESLEY~~ Wesley one time 'what would you do today if you knew Jes. was coming today?' He said 'I'd get up at 4 o'clock and pray and read my Bible. I would have a little bite of breakfast at 6 and by 9 o'clock, I'd be on my horse and I'd be traveling across the country.

I'd preached till about 12, I'd get a little bite. I'd relax and by 1 o'clock I'd be back on my horse and at 6 o'clock, I'd eat a bite and I'd pray ~~and~~ an hour or two and I'd go to bed about 8 or 9 o'clock.' They said 'but, Mr. Wesley, that's what you do every day'. He said 'that's exactly the way I live: as if the Lord was gonna come'. That's the way we ought to live. Just as I we thought we might die that very day.

Would there be anything you'd change today, if you thought the Lord was going to come? Daniel didn't have to change a thing. So he knelt. Is it necessary to kneel to pray? It isn't necessary, but it's highly advisable. Why? Because we should have the posture of humility to remind us we should be broken when we pray. I wish I had a way -- I told the 8 o'clock class -- that everybody in this congregation could kneel as we pray.

If I had a way, in this church, and when we build the new sanctuary, pray with

me that we'll have a way for everybody in this church to kneel. It's good for people to kneel, to remind us we are so dependent upon God. Now you don't have to, but it's good. Jesus knelt when He prayed. Stephen knelt when he prayed. Paul knelt when he prayed. Daniel is kneeling before God and he's praying and he's giving thanks - see?

In the midst of prayer and petition, always give thanks. In the midst of our asking, always shove in some 'hallelujahs'. Now Daniel does it three times a day. Why does he do it three times a day? Because - so there will be discipline. A praying person has to have discipline in prayer. If I do not set a time to pray, I'll finally get away ~~from it~~. That doesn't mean we can't pray other times but prayer should be programmed.

I really should. If you do not have a time to pray - set one. Because if you don't have a time to pray, eventually all prayer will leave you. It really will. So he had a time. And he did it three times a day. Can you imagine a president doing this? Having to leave his busy office and go to his home and open that window and doing that three times a day? You say 'we're too busy to pray'. No, we're not. It's busy people who pray.

When I want to get somebody to do something, I go to the busiest person in this church. If you wanna get somebody to do something to you, go to the busiest person. That's the person who prays; ~~what~~ that's the person that'll do something. It's amazing. It's the person who doesn't do anything that you don't want to ask to do that. They won't do it. And you have to discipline your life in spiritual discipline. He did it three times a day.

Well, he opened the window of his house (or home) West toward Jerusalem. Where did he get this practice? David did it. Three times a day. He says this in

Ps. 55:17. But also, David said 'pray, looking toward Jerusalem.' Ps. 5:7. But Solomon, when he dedicated the Temple, said 'turn toward the Temple when you pray'. Should we do this today? No. Why? Because Jesus is the Temple. Jesus has fulfilled all the furniture in the Temple and we pray to Jesus.

Here's where the Mohammadeons get the idea of turning toward Mecca. So he opened that window and he prayed three times a day in his busy, busy schedule and he did not hide it at all. Well, why didn't he just close that window - 'after all, they're after me and God'll hear me'. Why didn't he do that? Do you realize in the Bible, God always requires a public stand? He requires of me ~~and~~ to take a stand. If I'm trying to hide my faith and trying to put it under a bushel, that's not true faith.

Now He doesn't say 'parade it'. I'm not saying that. But we're not to hide our faith at all. Daniel did what he had been doing. Well, look at

V. 11(read) see, they get together and they slip up on him. Well, they didn;t HAVE to slip up on him; they just find him praying.

V. 12(read) see, they first find Daniel and then they come to the king and they say 'we want to ask you some questions!! King, did you not sign this petition? See? The king gave his answer - 'oh yes, I've done it and it's the law of the Medes and Persians'. See, ~~then~~ they wanted to get this clear before they told him

V.13(read) 'That Daniel' notice the ~~contempt~~ contempt, the anti-Semitism? Now when they said all these things about Daniel, they didn't say 'who is the first president of the land'. See? Kinda like some of the ~~se~~ reporters in the White House who don't even want to call the president 'President'/'

Have you ever noticed this? See, ~~hey~~ didn't say 'the president - the First president' - they said 'this foreigner, this captive from over in Judah, this little upstart...'.

Well, maybe they would have thought the king was really upset. Well, he was upset but for not the reason they thought.

V. 14(read) he sees, for the first time, he's walked into a trap. 'Set his heart' - the Hebrew means 'great compassion' - he set his heart with compassion and love on Daniel, to deliver him. 'To deliver him' or to save him. He did everything he could until the sun went down. Why did he work till the sun went down? Because if an accusation was made, the person had to be saved before the sun went down or there would be an execution or the law would be enforced. So he had until sundown. We don't know what time it was now.

V. 15 (read) we want to remind you, Mr. King, you're not gonna change this law. They were afraid he was gonna change the law. Well, why didn't he change the law? He's the king! Because to change the law would deny his own infallibility and he's fenced in. He's fenced in! The king found no legal way to save Daniel. He called in all the legal experts; he called in the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General; he tried to find some ancient law or something to get around the Law of the Medes and Persians, but he couldn't.

He has walked into a trap. It's very, very sad. He realizes it, he knows Daniel is innocent. He knows he's the only Godly person there is. But he has gone too far.

V. 16 (read) 'den' or the 'gob' in Hebrew, which means 'an underground cistern. It was a rather hideous thing, if you can imagine. Some people would rather

be cast into the Fiery Furnace. Well, it's really a wish in the latter part of this verse. Darius does not know - there should be a 'may' before 'thy God'; 'may thy God, whom thou servest continually, deliver thee'. It's his wish. He really wants it. But he is not stating, in my opinion... the New American Standard Version indicates he's stating it as a fact. I do not believe the Hebrew says that. I think that 's a mistake. I think it's just a wish.

Just a wish. He's saying 'I HOPE your God will dleiver you'.

V. 17 (read) now not only did he seal it with his signet ring but also his lords. Last sentence is the reason the lords signet was put on there. Possibly he could remove his own signet, but not the signet of the lords. So do you see how they've got him? REally trapped him.

V. 18 (read) King went to his palace. Where's Daniel? He's in the lions den. He spent a much better night in the lions den than ~~the~~ Darius did, in the palace. Matter of fact, he spend a delightful night and I look forward to hearing him tell of all the details of sleeping with those lions.

'Musick' means entertainment really. The average entertainment was not brought before him. What was the average entertainment? Musick, dancing girls, liquor and ~~men~~ concubines. He doesn't want any of this. He fasts. Here's a pagan king, who realizes he's dealing with something greater than he is. The kings sleep went from him. Did Daniel sleep? Slept like a child in that lions den.

But Darius was not sleeping up there in the palace at all. Reminds me of the 12th Chap. of Acts. where old Peter is thrown in prison and he's between the two guards and he's sound asleep. 'He giveth his beloved sleep' Ps. 127.

V. 19 (read) it means at the first ray of light and went in haste to the den of lions.

V. 20 (read) 'lamentable' really with a voice of 'anguish'. Note what the king said 'Servant of the living God'. Where did he get the idea of the living God? He got it from Daniel. Is he saying 'my pagan gods are not alive?' No, he's not necessarily saying that, but he's picked up Daniel's language and he's paying high tribute. 'You, who continually serve the Living God'. Not just on Sunday, but you ~~xxx~~ are the man who serves continually, the living God.' That's the way he addresses him. See the respect he has for him?

Is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? And you see, this bears out what I've already said; he hoped He was, but he puts it in the form of a question. Course he was amazed Daniel was there. He thought he was already being digested, in the lions stomach. He was amazed when he found him - in one sense - and yet, he'd heard of these miracles, no doubt, about Daniel.

V. 21 (read) Daniel is not nervous. Daniel is not anxious, at all. He addresses him as he would address him at the biggest state dinner. Oh, king, live forever. V. 22(read) 'shut' there's my word 'lockjaw'. Maybe you ought to call it 'shut' but I say it's lockjaw. 'Sent His angel' - what angel? The angel of the Lord - ~~th~~at's the same person that was in the fiery furnace. That's the same person who appeared to Abraham in Gen. 18. That's the same person who appears to Joshua in Jos. 5 - that's Jesus.

You say 'but this is 600 yrs. before Jesus'. This is Jes. preincarnate. This is ~~xxx~~ what we call a 'theophaney'. You see, Jes. always has been. He just became flesh at Bethlehem. But He has no beginning or ending of days. In the

O. T. He would often take on the form of an angel and the angel of Jehovah is ALWAYS Jesus. Now He doesn't say 'Jehovah' but surely it's the angel of Jehovah. 'My God has sent His angel and given ~~the~~ the lions lockjaw (the way I translate it)'.

You mean to tell me God can control ~~like~~ the mouths of lions? Dr. W.A. Criswell ~~says~~ says 'God was whispering in the ears of those lions and said to them 'don't touch him' '. Do you think God's whispered into the ear of the rooster that crowed after Peter denied Jesus? Jesus said 'the cock will crow twice, you'll deny me three times'. You think God had anything to do with ~~that~~? Does God have anything to do with animals?

God controls animals and anything He wants to, to accomplish His purpose. 'God is in the Heavens and He does what He pleases, Ps. 115:3.' He can control lions or anything. He's sovereign over nature as well as over man. He gives these lions - and there was probably a lot of them - lockjaw. As a matter of fact, Daniel spent a wonderful night with the Lord and the lions. I can just imagine he was singing a lullaby and probably made up a special song for this occasion.

The Angels and the Lions watch over me. Can't you just hear him singing this? Some have imagined a tremendous lion came and served as a pillow and he rested his head upon the shaggy main of a tremendous lion. I think so. On his right was a lion and on his left was a lion and there was two out in front of him and they just made him a wonderful bed there and he just slept there between those lions. Isn't that marvelous? They didn't hurt him at all.

God just gave them lockjaw. Can God do that? Middle of V. 22: 'forasmuch as before Him' that is 'before God'. 'no hurt' (no wrong'. See? I've done no wrong.

V. 23 (read) see the verb 'take up'? Or 'take'? That means to draw up, which is pretty great proof that the den was a cistern beneath the earth and Daniel was say down. Evidently there was caverns all out - there was a main part of this and they cast him right in there and of course, those lions would have pounced right on him. Matter of fact, he'd never have gotten to the bottom, ordinarily. Except God gave them lockjaws and made them wonderful friends and companions.

But he's down there and he draws him up. We don't know how far he was but the Hebrew says 'he was drawn up out of the den'. Now turn over to Heb. 11:33 - ^{real} ~~xxxx~~ quickly - here's something that you close Bible students will be interested in knowing. In Heb. 11:33 (read) it says 'who through faith stopped the mouths of lions'. Who's he talking about? Well, undoubtedly, Daniel. Also Paul. Paul says 'God stopped the lions for him' II Tim. 4:17. I believe those were human lions for Paul. Based on I Cor. 15:32, he indicates there he's wrestling with beasts.

I believe they were human beasts. Certainly this would or could be applied to Daniel. 'Who, by faith, stopped the ~~xxxx~~ mouths of lions'. Did Daniel stop the lions or did God? Well, V. 24 says it was the angel of the Lord, doesn't it? Dan. 6:24, no, 6:22 says 'angel of the Lord gave lockjaw'. Heb. 11:33 (read) says here Daniel. stopped the mouths of the lions. What's that mean? Is there any contradiction? Why, no. Daniel had faith in the living God who stopped the lions. Would God have done this without Daniels' faith? I dont' think so.

God had to do it. But Heb. 11:33 says 'it was through his faith'. God honors faith. God honors faith in our lives. As a matter of fact, without faith, Daniel ~~xxx~~ would never have been thrown anywhere. He'd just compromised and said his

prayers silently or inaudibly. O.K.

Look at V.24 (read).... well, first, look at V. 23, the latter part (read) notice? He wasn't hurt because he trusted in his God. Now V. 24 - you know what this is? That's what we ~~xxxx~~ call 'lex talionis' eye for eye; tooth for a tooth. You tried to get his hide; you're hide's demanded. But why the whole family? That was ~~Rexian~~ Persian law. If you died, your wife will die. Your children will die. Your kinsfolks will die. You say 'well, that's not much justice'. Well, of course not. We take for granted in the Anglo-Saxon world a type of justice that's unknown in most of our world.

Like in the Mohammadan world, You know where this came from? It came from two thousand years of history. Xtn history. Our Anglo-Saxon brothers from Norther Europe went to England and through the influence of the Gospel, they have brought us our precious freedom, where we're dealt with as individuals^e and with dignity. But the Carnal mind of man murders and kills. The wife, the husband, the children.

Persian Law demanded this. You talk about a crowd that went to the lions, how many were there? Well, there were hundreds of them. Look what it says^e says ' he commanded they bring these men and women' and they cast them in the den of lions - children, women, wives and the lions had the mastery of them, no longer are they - no longer do they have lockjaw. They're very capable of killing. They were under ~~xxxx~~ the control of the Lord or they would have eaten Daniel up, alive.

It says 'and they broke all their bones in pieces or ever (that is, before they came to the bottom of the den]. You get the picture? They started tossing that crowd of people in that den and not a one of them ever got down

lions,
to the bottom. Those hungry/ no longer with the Lord whispering in their ears, they don't have lockjaw any longer, and they ate every one of them. Course that's not hard to realize. Anybody who knows anything about a lion. Then Darius wrote unto all people

V. 25 (read) this is the formality of the way they issued a decree. 'I make the decree ' it says in

V. 26 (read) see the miracle was primarily for the heathen again. I say again, as Xtns, we don't have to have a miracle. If you have to have a miracle, your faith is weak. It's the weak person who demands a miracle. The the heathen man needs the miracle. Darius has seen a miracle and God's got his attention. See? Because of what he saw, in the way of the preservation of Dan., he says 'this man has a God who's alive, steadfast and a Kingdom that will not be destroyed and His deminion shall not be ~~xxxxxx~~ even unto the end'.

Now he didn't know everything he said; he's speaking something far beyond his ability to know. He says 'His Kingdom shall be unto the end'.

Side 2 of tape

But there won't be any end to it. It'll be unto the end, indeed and it'll be beyond the end! It will be beyond history, absolutely. He says, in

V. 27 (read) and V.28 : 'so this Daniel'- why is it stated that way? This SAME Daniel.... isn't it wonderful how the Bible puts it? So this same Daniel (in other words : I don't want you to think it's someone else) prospered in reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus, the Persian. What an interesting note. God has brought Dan. to his highest moment at the age of

83 - don't forget it. God has no retirement from service. If we get ill and we can't operate, God will let us retire. God has no retirement from service EVER - we're not gonna be retired in Heaven. Oh, I don't want to discourage you - it's not gonna be work, like we know it, but it's certainly not gonna be sitting around, doing nothing.

We'll have the greatest service we've ever had. Our Father never got his work done. He worked from sun to sun; was one of the smartest men I've ever known, but I've thought of what he's doing now.

In the government of Eternity. He's in his greatest service today. Man, he's really working today and doesn't get tired. In ~~Heaven~~ Heaven, the saints will be given a place of ~~xxx~~ service, in the administration of the Eternal Kingdom. There's no such thing as retirement from service. Daniel, at 83, is at his greatest hour of service and you know what one of the greatest things he did? He influenced old Cyrus to issue a decree to let the Jews come back home and it was very wonderfully generous.

That was through the influence of Dan., in my judgment, more than anything in the world. Daniel talked to Cyrus. I think that verse implies that.

The Lord lays lockjaw on the lousy Lions. Did He? He really did. Let's look. Daniel 6 - here's just a little outline. No one needs any help here:

1. Favoured by Darius.
2. Framed by his enemies.
3. Faithful to Jehovah.
4. Flung to the lions.
5. Freed by the Angel of Jehovah (or the Lord).

The reason I give this to you is we have some students, some who are seeking

to know how to outline the Bible, literatively - you work on this a little, you have no trouble. See your 'F' there? Just a little imagination. People love this - when you're preaching and teaching. Not profound, ~~fixxxxt~~ but the great things of life are not profound.

Seven reasons why politicians hated Daniel:

1. Envy. That's an awful thing, Envy. Jealousy.
2. Daniel was old and they were young. Dan. was 83. These young squirts said 'we can't let this old man get any privileges.
3. Antisemitism. He's a Jew, we're Persian or Medes.
4. His Godliness. That was right at the center of their resentment. They did not like him. May be somebody who doesn't like you because you're Godly. You're honest and clean and you won't play ball with them. Don't let that hurt you at all. If you're a young person, just remember Daniel.
5. His Devotion to Jehovah. He loved the Lord. You love the Lord; some people won't like that because they don't love the Lord and that makes them uncomfortable around you.
6. Would not play their political games. This is a world of politics; you don't have to be in Washington to play politics. You know what politics is? The art of compromising! Sometimes that involves sin. He would not do this. Some of you have not compromised on your job, but you still have it. Some of you may have lost your job. But your're honorable.
7. (Rom. 8:7 and James 4:4) take these down, you'll understand them. Rom. 'carnal mind is enmity against God' See? The natural man is an enemy of the Godly mind. James 'the friendship of this world is enmity with God'.

Seven reasons why the politicians hated Daniel. They still hate us. The world hates Gods people. Lot of times, they don't know WHY they hate them.

Xtns need to know this. When you know, you can always work through it and keep your chin up and not worry a lick. Just enjoy life and let 'em talk!

How Daniel could have gotten around the kings decree. Simple enough. Would you and I have rationalized?

1. Postponed his prayed for thirty days. Why not? A life is at stake; thirty days is not too long.

2. Shut the Windows when he prayed. Why not? He'd have been praying? He didn't have to open the windows, did he?

3. PRAYED inaudibly in his heart. But you know what the Bible says? 'Whosoever ~~xxx~~ shall deny Me before men, his will I deny before My Father, which is in Heaven' Matt. 10:33. Whether we like it or not, God commands we confess. That we confess our faith to this world. You can't be saved without you confess. That's what the Bible says.

You got to confess with your mouth, as well as believe in your heart. Have you ever heard people say 'well, you know, I don't talk about religion in public. I dont want to discuss that. I discuss everything else on earth, but you know, I just don't discuss religion. You ever heard that? You know who that person is? He has no religion to discuss. Now I'm not talking about running around, grabbing everybody by the collar, saying 'repent or you're going to hell' and all that. I'm not saying that.

But there is no such things as being a Xtn and not confessing it and as Xtns, we're called upon to witness for our Lord. I think - I would highly commend this to you - in a restaurant you pray before you eat. You know why? Somebody who's watching needs the witness. I was invited by the head of a theological seminary, to have a meal with him and he was ~~xxx~~ actually asking me

to join the faculty. He and the Dean were there, the President of the Seminary was there and the Dean was there. Well, I said 'let's pray' and they were not gonna pray before we ate and they said 'well, if you want to'. I said 'well, I pray in a home and I pray, if I were by myself, I'd pray -- let's pray'. So I did. They said 'well, it's fine for you to pray. But you know praying like this, we kinda feel somebody might feel we're hypocrites.' I said 'well, I'm not a hypocrite. I just pray before I eat. I don't care what others SAY - I'm not a hypocrite. I'm praying unto God'.

You know - often when I pray - I have people come over to me and say 'thank God'. I find it almost always encourages people if you pray. Now if you haven't done this, I'm not condemning you, but I think it's a good thing. This is just a LITTLE example of witnessing for the Lord. If we're not willing to do that, what are we willing to do????

Definition of the Law of the Medes and the Persians. You have a reference to Esther 1: 19 and 1: 18a (read) see? Example: DArius III cast death on karidama (I told you about that) and knew he'd made a mistake but refused to change the law.

Then I thought of a quote from Emerson 'a foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds'. Amen? You wanna get that again? Well, another way is 'a man who won't change his mind is a fool'. There's not a man on earth that must NOT change his mind, if he's honest, sooner or later, about something. We've all made mistakes. O.K.

Now Timeless Truths of the Chapter and here's the reason I wanted the whole world to come. Here's the reason:

1. DON'T FALL TO FLATTERY.

2. LIVE PREPARED TO DIE.

3. THOSE SETTING TRAPS FOR OTHERS, GET CAUGHT IN THEIR OWN TRAP.

4. IT'S EASY TO RATIONALIZE AWAY THE MOST PRECIOUS TRUTH. We do it long enough, our lives will be in shambles. We won't be a thing. We can all rationalize anything away.

5. THE ANGEL OF THE LORD IS IN OUR LIONS DEN. Everybody has his lions den. But the angel of the Lord is in our lions den. The Bible teaches this.

6. GOD DOESN'T ALWAYS DELIVER HIS CHILDREN FROM THE LIONS. Compare Dan. and Paul to Jesus and John, the Baptist. He delivered Daniel and Paul, but He didn't deliver John. He didn't deliver Jesus and yet, He did. If Daniel had been eaten, God could not have accomplished His purpose. A pagan king needs to see this. If he's been eaten, the pagan would have ~~xxxx~~ said 'there's nothing to Jehovah'.

He didn't have enough understanding of Gods ways. But if he had been eaten, he'd have been delivered just ~~ix~~ as soon, and in one way, better. The angel, rather than keeping him from death, the angel would have immediately taken him to the bosom of Abraham. Sometimes God does NOT deliver. There are many cases of where lions have killed Xtns. God could have, but he didn't whisper in the ears of some lions. THAT's what we have to understand: THE WAYS OF GOD ARE NOT OUR WAYS!

So. # 6 is God's Angel always delivers his children from the lions den - a DOESN'T always - and yet, He does. It really should be in the positive, if you understand the way I've described it.

7. DON'T TOUCH GOD'S ANOINTED UNLESS PREPARED FOR THE WORSE. These enemies were dealing with God's anointed.

8. DANIEL IS A TYPE OF THE JEWISH REMNANT TO BE PRESERVED THROUGH THE GREAT TRIBULATION. See? He was preserved in the lions den and this reminds us of Rev. 7 of the 144,000.

9. DANIEL'S ENEMIES A TYPE OF THE ANTICHRIST AND FOLLOWERS TO BE DESTROYED BY JESUS. See that crowd that was cast in there - that's the Gentiles that's gonna be destroyed.

10. PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE ON EARTH. Was there any relationship between Daniels prayer life and his courage to go into the lions den and his faith? You see, God works His miracles but He doesn't do it in a vacuum. He doesn't do it without us.

11. BIBLE STANDS WHEN ALL EVIDENCE IS IN. Darius is a real character. The archeologists have proven it. His real name is 'Googaroo'.

12. DANIEL FARED BETTER IN THE LIONS DEN THAN IN THE CRITICS DEN. The critics have torn him to pieces. He fared much better; he fared quite well in the lions den, but the critics have torn him to pieces.

13. A PERSON IS NOT DELIVERED FROM HIS LIONS DEN, APART FROM HIS OWN PERSONAL FAITH.

Six interesting questions:

1. Why didn't Darius use the fiery furnace? Well, why didn't he, Class, I answered this? Who can tell me? Beg your pardon? They worshipped fire and so, he uses the lions den.

2. Where are the three asbastos boys now? Where are they? Well,

that's WHO they are but WHERE are they? Well, we don't know where they are. We didn't know where Daniel was when they were put in the fiery furnace. You see the truth it indicates? He put some in the lions den and some in the fiery furnace. We don't know WHAT he'll do.

3. Did Daniel influence Cyrus to be generous toward the Jews? I, undoubtedly believe he did.

4. Why didn't Dan. pray to king Darius? Why didn't he pray in --- in a word: why didn't he pray to king Darius? Anybody? Well, it would have broken the first commandment and the second commandment and that would have been idolatry in its rawest form. 'Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image'. 'Thou shalt worship the Lord, thy God, and Him only'.

5. Where did the practice of praying toward Jerusalem originate? Well, evidently David. Far as we can know, Ps. 5:7 which would be a thousand B.C. That's earlier than Solomon, just a little earlier. Who was another person in the Bible delivered from the lions? Who? Paul. We believe it was a human lion and Jesus speaks of the lion in Ps. 22. He says He was gaped upon with lions (and I think He's talking about human lions).

All right, thank you so much and what a joy it's been to have you and we will meet you here at 5 :30 or next Sunday and next Sunday, we begin the very important seventh chapter, which deals with the world kingdom. We come back into prophecy entirely - the great vision of the ancient of days. Now here is the heart of the prophecy of Daniel. Rest of the book will be prophecy.

Let's stand now and pray before we go.