

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 8) 23 Jan..... Daniel 01..... Integrity Established
- 9) 30 Jan..... Daniel 02-03..... Demonstrate Allegiance
- 10) 06 Feb..... Daniel 04-05..... Humility Required
- 11) 13 Feb..... Daniel 06..... Trust Exhibited
- 12) 20 Feb..... Daniel 07-08..... Future Seen
- 13) 27 Feb..... Daniel 09-12..... Confession Made

INTRODUCTION

- Being fed to lions (or even crucified) is quite gruesome when you consider how barbaric it was for men, women, and children to die so horribly for the amusement of others
- This incident in Scripture is preached far and wide to young and old. The applications are many ranging from God's sovereignty over kingdoms, on justice, and on how God answers prayers – or doesn't answer prayers
- So, why does God seem ambivalent to many of our prayers? Why does praying seem like a crapshoot where only a small percentage of our prayers ever seem to hit the mark? Shouldn't our prayers be more like a sniper's one shot, one kill – Pray once & get it done?

Passage	Comments
Daniel 6:1-10	<p>Character Built on Spiritual Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darius the Mede takes a liking to Daniel • v1. 120 princes (NASB) or satraps (KJV) were equivalent to county mayors or state governors • v3. Daniel's reputation was so outstanding, even while under control of the relatively new Persian empire, King Darius was going to promote Daniel over all other territorial rulers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How is our reputation in the workplace? We may not be the brightest or best looking, but is our loyalty, demeanor, and commitment the best it can be? ♦ Remember – we have to give God something to work with • v4. Jealousy sets in with Daniel's peers. Scripture doesn't voice any concern from Daniel's perspective • v5. Daniel's enemies trounced him through his religious beliefs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Today, we are seeing more and more hostility toward Christians ♦ Christians are being labeled as racists, intolerant bigots, hypocrites, & ignorant of "true" science, such as evolution ♦ How should we respond to such charges? Do we protest, or go militant, or do we capitulate, or hide? • v10. Daniel kept to his routine. After the "Executive Order" was signed he prayed about it and gave thanks to God as it was his habit
Are we devoted to praying? Rom 12:12	<p>Which is more effective for praying: standing, kneeling, sitting, prostrate face up or face down, walking, running or driving? Where should the hands be? Up? Down? Straight Out? In the pockets? Do we pray long or short prayers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel prayed 3x daily on his knees Dan 6:10 • David prayed morning, noon, and at night..... Ps 55:17 • David sat to pray..... 2 Samuel 7:18 • Solomon stood and spread his hands toward heaven.... 1 Kings 8:22 • Solomon also sat, stood, and knelt 2Chron 6:13 • Ezra and the people prayed standing with hands lifted up, heads down, eyes to ground Neh 8:6 • Nehemiah prayed quickly Neh 22:3 • Prophetess Anna fasted & prayed day and night..... Luke 2:36-37 • Jesus prayed all night..... Luke 6:12 • Jesus knelt down and prayed Luke 22:41 • Jesus prayed 2 sentences before raising Lazarus..... John 11:41-43 • Jesus laid down to pray..... Mt 26:38-39 • Jesus prayed while being tortured on the cross Mt 27:46 • Jesus prayed with His eyes open John 17:1 • Jesus stated, 'whenever you stand praying...' Mark 11:25 • Paul wanted men to lift up holy hands in prayer..... 1 Tim 2:8a • The tax collector would not even look up to heaven..... Lk 18:10-13 • Paul and others prayed kneeling Acts 20:5, 36 <p>Praying involves having a humbled & worshipful heart more than having the right posture or position or even the right words..... JUST PRAY!</p>
6:11-18	<p>Courage in Dangerous Situations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv16-18. If the king's statement "Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you" was a fact, then why did he spend the night worrying about it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Don't we do the same? We turn a matter over to God and we 2nd guess ourselves, or doubt God's willingness to fix our problem ♦ Why didn't God deliver the Syrian Christians who were crucified, or delivered other martyrs of the faith? →→→

Passage	Comments
6:19-24	<p>Confidence in God's Help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv22-23. God miraculously preserved Daniel from being torn apart – "because he had trusted in God." Some say "Well, just trust in God and bad things won't happen to you." That is not always the case... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ John the Baptist trusted in God, and he was beheaded ♦ James the Apostle trusted in God, & he was killed with the sword ♦ Stephen trusted in God, and he was stoned to death ♦ Jesus trusted in God, and He was crucified ♦ SO, how do we articulate to an unbeliever or a skeptic that we do not have contradictions in Scripture; and God is not a god who whimsically does whatever He pleases and shows favoritism to whomever He chooses and ignores all others? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this: Deut 32:4 – "For all His ways are just; He is a God of faithfulness and without injustice, He is righteous and upright"; and Isaiah 55:8-9 – "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. ♦ We may not get every problem adequately answered this side of eternity, but eventually, "ALL things will work out for our good" and for God's glory • v24. Daniel's accusers along with their wives and children were fed to the hungry lions. Was this wrong, or true justice, or poetic justice?
Why didn't Daniel ask for clemency for his accusers, or at least for their family's?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He might have asked for clemency, but it is not recorded for us • Or, Daniel simply witnessed Babylonian justice being carried out • This is reminiscent of when Esther called for an extra day to battle Jewish enemies and to hang the 10 sons of Haman Esther 9:13 • God is not opposed to executing justice against His enemies, especially after considerable time is given to them to repent, and to observe His patience and to hear His prophetic pronouncements • Daniel's accusers were fully aware of Daniel's faith in his God
6:25-28	<p>Confession of God's Awesomeness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If national leaders proclaim their nation's allegiance to God, will all the people become believers?NO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Crusaders of yesteryear and Muslims of today think forced conversions will bring peace – BUT it doesn't work ♦ God only wants people who choose to willingly love & serve Him ♦ "People convinced against their will are of the same opinion still"

CONCLUSION & APPLICATIONS

- Praying may be very subjective & even frustrating at times but pray we must. God has chosen to use our prayers to accomplish His will in our lives and throughout the world to usher in His Kingdom. If there is a problem with us not getting all of our prayers answered, the problem is usually with us praying amiss. Always "prove all things"
- Even God's elite had mixed success as Hebrews 11:33-36 tells us: "...by faith [some] conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, ...became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight; received back their dead by resurrection; [BUT] others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;"
- Remember – This world is not about US, but about us bringing glory to God and ushering in His kingdom through our faithful prayers and testimony, whether we receive blessings or torments. That's FAITH

NEXT WEEK: Daniel 7-8. Daniel foretells Israel's destiny, and we are introduced to the "Son of Man" and the "Ancient of Days"



Crucified Syrian Christians who refused to denounce their faith. "[We] have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin." Hebrews 12:4