



STANDING STRONG IN TRYING TIMES

The Book of Daniel

New Boss, Same As the Old Boss

Key idea:

Daniel still faced persecution under the new kingdom, reminding us that God's people must always live by trust in God rather than man in the land of our exile.

Key text:

Daniel 6

Key points:

1. Daniel again rose to a place of prominence in the new Medo-Persian kingdom as he displayed great character in fulfilling his calling as a leader in the government.
2. Jealousy prompted Daniel's fellow leaders to conspire and create a plan to force him to either compromise his faith or disobey the law of the land.
3. Daniel did not waver in the face of the trap, but simply continued his regular practice of prayer and serving God.
4. Although Darius was distressed at having to punish Daniel, he had no power to rescue him and so had him thrown into the den of lions, expressing hope that God might deliver Daniel.
5. God sent His angel to deliver Daniel from the lions, but those who conspired against him were killed by the same lions.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. How surprising is it to see that Daniel quickly rose to the highest level of government in the new empire? What about Daniel allowed him to continually find favor with unbelieving rulers?
3. Did the people conspiring against Daniel want to persecute him for his faith? Why did they try to have him killed? What does that teach me about the reasons God's exile people might find themselves in difficult circumstances?
4. In what ways is Daniel an example for God's exile people today?

5. Why did Darius agree to the law proposed by the conspirators? Did he realize the problems this would create for Daniel? How would this make a difference in Daniel's response to Darius?
6. In what ways are Darius and Nebuchadnezzar presented as being alike? In what ways are they presented as being different?
7. In what ways are Daniel 3 and 6 similar? In what ways are they different?
8. What does Darius' inability to protect Daniel teach me about the limits of human power? How should this inform my view of political power in America today?
9. How does this story point me, not to Daniel, but to Jesus?
10. Does this story teach that those who trust in God will always be delivered from harm? Why or why not?
11. Who will I call or see to encourage this week?

For Further Study:

[Christ, the Church, Christians, and Culture \(series\)](#) (2010-2011)

[The Lord Will Provide](#) (June 7, 2020)

[Unity and Courage In the Face of Opposition](#) (February 3, 2008)

[The Way - Trusting In God's Sovereignty](#) (May 30, 2021)

[The Church - The Persecuted Community of Faith](#) (November 8, 2020)

[Smyrna - The Persecuted Church](#) (March 5, 2017)

[Imprecation - Avenge Your People O God!](#) (January 11, 2004)

Preview of next week: Prospering In the Land Of Our Exile (Daniel 6:25-28)