
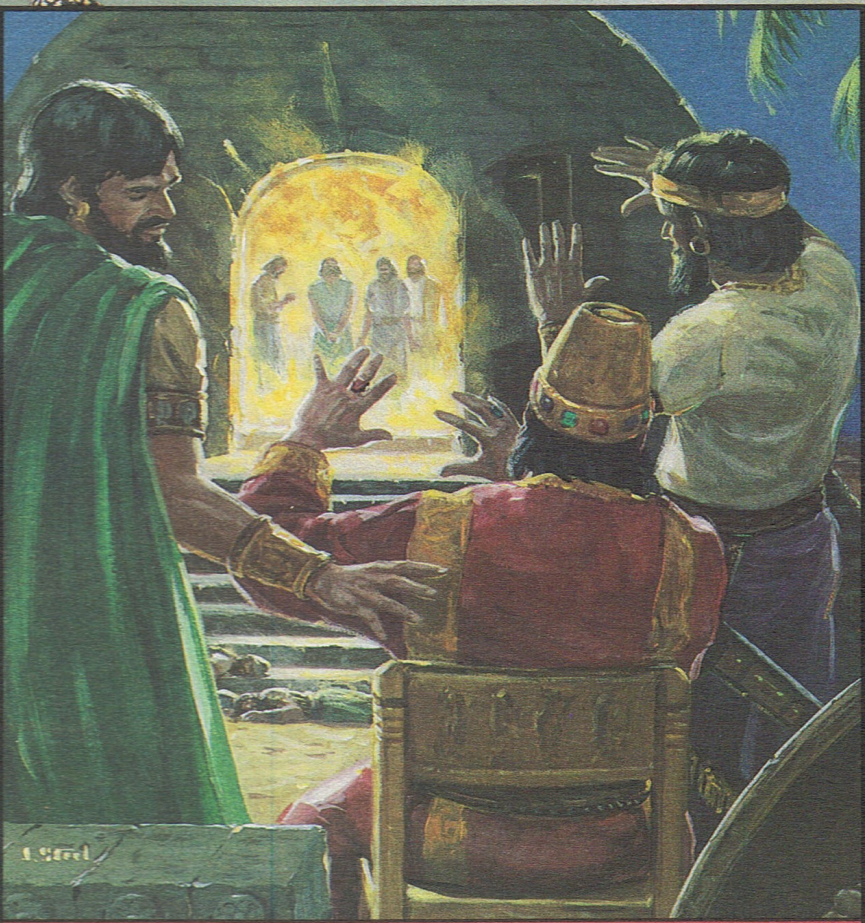




PS-08



PROPHECY SEMINAR



CONFLICT OVER TRUE WORSHIP

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In Daniel 3, the Bible says that the king endeavoured to force the three Hebrews to false worship by insisting that they bow to his golden image. Nebuchadnezzar was unsuccessful in coercing them to false worship. In Daniel 6, there is an attempt to prohibit true worship. In the fiery furnace episode of Daniel 3, they could still have worshipped the true God, but in Daniel 6, there is a prohibition against worshipping the true God. Likewise, in the last days, the book of Revelation reveals that God's people will first be enticed to worship God falsely, and finally will be prohibited from worshipping God truly. God's people will not yield on either point. They will be as faithful as the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace and as Daniel in the lion's den. The reason for their steadfast faithfulness will be the same as it was for Daniel and his friends—they will have developed a strong personal relationship with their Lord. A relationship with God is the most important thing we can have as we enter the final scenes of earth's history.

THE DECREE PROHIBITING TRUE WORSHIP

1. How many satraps (princes) were set over the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians? Daniel 6:1

"One _____ and _____ satraps."

2. How many governors were over the 120 satraps? Daniel 6:2

3. Who was preferred among the three governors? Daniel 6:3

NOTE: This is an amazing story. Here was a man who served as prime minister in Babylon, was made third ruler in Babylon on the night Cyrus conquered Babylon, and now the Medo Persians were willing to place him in charge of all the affairs of the new kingdom. What a testimony to the righteous character of Daniel. All of these rulers knew that he could be trusted because of his relationship with God.

4. Could the scheming governors and satraps find any fault with Daniel? Daniel 6:4

NOTE: No matter how carefully they searched, they could find nothing against Daniel. He didn't cheat on his income tax, he didn't keep two sets of books, he was honest in everything he did.

18. What is Bible study profitable for? 2 Timothy 3:16

"For _____, for _____, for _____, for _____ in righteousness."

NOTE: Bible study will help us discover what is correct doctrine, it will reprove us of our sins, it will correct us where we have gone wrong, it will provide instruction in the pathway of righteousness and it will let us know the way that we should go.

19. What will be the result of a proper study of the Word? 11 Timothy 3:17

"That the man of God may be _____."

NOTE: The word "complete" also means mature. Bible study and proper use of the Word will help a Christian to grow and mature in his relationship with God. There is no way to grow except through Bible study and prayer. Any Christian who is serious about being ready for the closing scenes of earth's history will be spending a lot of time developing a relationship with God through Bible study and prayer.

20. Is it your desire to be a faithful Daniel by developing a deep personal relationship with God through Bible study and prayer so that you might be prepared for the closing scenes of earth's history?

THE IMPORTANCE OF A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

15. How important is a relationship with God? John 17:3

"This is _____ life, that they may _____ You, the only true God."

NOTE: It is eternal life to know Jesus Christ. There is nothing more important than a relationship with God. IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD.

16. How did Daniel develop such a deep personal relationship with a God? Daniel 6:10

He prayed _____ times a day.

NOTE: The secret of Daniel's success, the reason that he had such a deep personal relationship with God, was the large amount of time that he spent with God. His was not a hasty prayer in the morning or the evening. THREE TIMES EACH DAY, he spent time in special communion with God. The only way in which we can develop a personal relationship with God is to spend time with Him. Because Daniel spent this quality time with God, he could make it through the lions' den. In the last days, when the apostate power will prohibit the true worship of God and impose false worship and disobedience to God's law, only those who have, like Daniel, developed this personal relationship with God will be able to withstand the trials of this time. No earthly relationship can be thoroughly established unless people take time together. A husband and wife will grow apart if they don't set aside time to develop their relationship. Likewise, a Christian who does not spend time with his God will not be prepared for the final scenes of earth's history. **The secret of Daniel's success is his prayer life — his relationship with his God.**

17. How can the Christian maintain his relationship with God? 2 Timothy 3:15

Study "the Holy _____, which are able to make you for salvation".

NOTE: The Christian who is building a relationship with God will spend much time studying God's sacred Word. The Christian will not only study, but will follow Bible principles. "His delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law Both he meditate day and night". Bible study and prayer are the essential ingredients in building a solid personal relationship with God. In the final crisis, the issue will be the same: a relationship with God that enables the Christian today to obey the commandments of God (Rev. 14:6-7; 12:17)

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5. What was the one area of Daniel's life where the satraps found fault? Daniel 6:5

"The _____ of his God."

NOTE: Notice that the same issue arises again. Daniel ends up in conflict, and the conflict is over the law of God. Obedience to God's law and how he worshipped God were the issues of the conflict. These issues come together in Chapter 6. Because the stories of Daniel illustrate the crisis in the end-time, we can expect that in the final crisis the issues will be the same. There will be a conflict over God's law and how people worship God.

6. What request did the scheming satraps make of King Darius? Daniel 6:6-9

"Whoever _____ any god or man for thirty days, except you, 0 king, shall be cast into the den of _____."

NOTE: These scheming satraps tried to flatter Darius into thinking that he was so important that folks should make requests of him only. Since all these ancient emperors liked to think that they were gods, Darius signed the decree, not realizing the intent of the satraps to destroy Daniel. Here was a decree signed by the government that said that Daniel could not pray or worship God —a total prohibition against the worship of the true God.

DANIEL'S PRAYER LIFE

7. What did Daniel do when he knew the decree had been signed by the king? Daniel 6:10

He prayed _____ times a day.

NOTE: Daniel did not change his prayer habits when the decree was signed. He could have prayed in his closet, but that would have been hiding his faith. Instead, he went by the open window and did exactly as he had done every day before - he prayed three times daily to his God. Here was the secret of Daniel's power. This was the reason for Daniel's great strength in Babylon and Medo-Persia. If there was ever a time when Daniel needed to pray, it was now. Nothing could keep him from worshipping his God.

Had Daniel changed his prayer habits under pressure, he would have denied his relationship with God. Some people might feel that this was a small thing, that he could have prayed secretly and no one would have known the difference. In that way, he could have avoided the lion's den. But to Daniel, obedience to God was more important than life itself. He would not give anyone the opportunity to think that he was not faithful to his God.

A relationship with God was more important to Daniel than life itself.



8. When the satraps saw Daniel praying, what did they report to King Darius? Daniel 6:11-13

That Daniel _____ three times a day.

NOTE: The satraps did not hesitate a moment. As soon as they saw Daniel praying as he had always done, they reported him to the king. Now they would get even. They could get rid of Daniel. No longer would they have to worry about his honesty. They could cheat the king and Daniel would never report it. He would be gone.

IN THE LION'S DEN

9. How did King Darius feel when he realized what the scheming satraps had really planned? Daniel 6:14

He "was greatly _____ with himself,... and he laboured till the going down of the sun to _____ him".

NOTE: Now that Darius saw what the satraps were up to, he did his best to deliver Daniel. He tried to find a way out of the law, but the satraps had written the law all too well.

10. Although Darius was forced to put Daniel into the lion's den, what

remarkable statement of faith did he make? Daniel 6:15, 16

"Your God, whom you serve _____ He will _____ you."

NOTE: Even Darius knew the secret of Daniel's success. Perhaps he had heard some of the stories of Nebuchadnezzar and knew that God had delivered the Hebrews in the past. Therefore, he expressed faith that Daniel's God could deliver him again. Interestingly, Darius notes that Daniel serves God "continually". Darius knew that the secret of Daniel's success was his relationship with God.

11. How did the king spend the night while Daniel was in the lion's den? Daniel 6:17, 18

He spent the night _____.

NOTE: Darius could not sleep that night. He was deeply troubled about Daniel.

12. What did the king discover very early the next morning when he came to the lion's den? Daniel 6:19-22

"My God sent His angel and _____ the lion's _____."

NOTE: How happy Darius was! Daniel was alive! His God had delivered him!

13. What command did the king give concerning the scheming satraps? Daniel 6:24

They should be _____ into the den of _____.

NOTE: The lions were indeed "un-fed" and hungry! This is further proof of God's miracle-working power in keeping Daniel from harm.

14. What decree did Darius now make? Daniel 6:25-28

That "men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the _____ God His kingdom... shall not be _____ and His dominion shall endure to the end. He delivers and _____, and He works _____ and _____ in heaven and on earth."

NOTE: What a tremendous witness Daniel was! Two world rulers, Nebuchadnezzar and Darius, were brought to acknowledge the true God because of the tremendous witness of Daniel. But let us not forget the key to Daniel's successful witness - his personal relationship with his God.