

Daniel 6 – The Silver Leadership of the Medes and the Persians

By Holly Effiom

VV1-3

How did Darius organize his kingdom?

What does this tell you about Darius' *personality*?

Where was Daniel placed in this organization?

Was the king considering promoting Daniel?

What does this tell you about Darius' *character*?

Considering that ALL dominion is in God's hands, what does His placing Darius as king in Babylon tell you about God's *personality*?

Considering that Darius wasn't even a Persian, yet was placed in a position in which the Persians assigned him the kingship in Babylon, what does this tell you about God's *character*?

LESSON: This section of scripture shows us that the Medes and Persians had a strong sense of order and organization, in that the first order of business, once Babylon was conquered, was to set 120 princes over districts over the entire kingdom. NOTE: the "kingdom" was no long just Media and Persia, but also Babylon.

Over the 120 princes were placed 3 presidents, one of whom was Daniel.

Firstly, that Darius was chosen to be king in Babylon tells you that he was well trusted by Persia – his *track-record* and *personality* must have engendered such loyalty from another.

Secondly, the fact that the king even observed the *work* and the *spirit* of his subordinates, tells you that he is not only an involved, hands-on, supervisor, but that he was NOT a "respector of persons". And this tells us about the king's *character* – he was more interested in competency (or the content of character) than the subordinate's *race* or *clan* affiliation.

Thirdly, that fact the king was a rewarder of good work. Daniel's good work earned him notice, and the king was considering rewarding that good work with a promotion.

What can we learn about God Almighty's personality and character based upon the personality and character of the one to whom dominion is passed in this instance?

With these wonderful qualities as supervisor, we still know based upon Dan 2:39, that the kingdom of the Medes and Persians is considered "inferior" to the Babylonian. What would make it inferior?

1. That it is not the first. Positionally-speaking, in a family, there is no way that the second- or third-born child can ever be the firstborn. While it is completely possible for the firstborn to die; become a drug-addicted good-for-nothing; become mentally incapacitated, and the second-born step up and take on the responsibilities of the firstborn, the second-born was still and always will be born second of that set of parents. And such is the case for the Medo-Persian Empire – it will never BE the Babylonian Empire.
2. That it is a conglomeration of 2 empires – 2 different cultures and languages – now, merging a 3rd into the mix. The Medo-Persian Empire, while in some ways created a type of synergy, also introduced a type of fragility into the leadership structure through the inherent sense of competition between people.
3. That silver cannot be gold, and greater value is placed upon gold. Just as the second-born cannot be the firstborn from a set of parents (see No.1 above), dominion legitimately obtained will always be valued more than dominion illegitimately *taken*.

Daniel 6 – The Silver Leadership of the Medes and the Persians

By Holly Effiom

VV4-9

What prompted the presidents and princes to try and find some fault in Daniel?

Does this story sound familiar? (See Dan 3, LESSON, Page 13)

Was Daniel still in the full-time “divination” business under Darius? How do you know?

Would you say that Daniel is a government worker?

What did his peers determine would be the only way to attack Daniel?

What did the presidents and princes come up with to attack Daniel?

What sense does this decree make?

Will it save anyone’s life?

Will it help anyone be able to take care of their family?

Will it make any aspect of government perform better?

Will it help the kingdom make more money?

Will it make the kingdom more secure?

What on earth would make a king sign such a decree?

Could it be the same disease from which Belshazzar suffered in Dan 5:22? What disease is this?

VV10-15

What did Daniel do as soon as he was aware of the decree?

Was this a new thing that he did, with regard to praying to his God?

How often did he pray? Did he pray in secret?

Why did he pray toward Jerusalem? See Solomon’s Prayer 1 King 8:46-48

What did the presidents and princes do after seeing Daniel praying during that 30 days of the law?

Did they complain that Daniel was praying in the middle of the city or that he was breaking the law in the privacy of his own living quarters?

Did Darius react like Nebuchadnezzar in Dan 3:19? How was his reaction different?

With whom did Darius get angry – Daniel?

What did Darius do once he realized Daniel will have to die according to the law?

Was Darius successful in keep from meting out the death penalty on Daniel? Why or why not?

VV16-24

Who ordered that Daniel be placed in the lions’ den?

What did the king tell Daniel before having him put in the lions’ den?

Does it seem that Darius is a believer in the Most High God?

Did Darius go to a party after consigning Daniel to the lions’ den?

What does this tell you about how Darius felt about Daniel? How do you know?

Did the king send someone to the lions’ den to get Daniel in the morning?

What was Darius’ question?

Did Daniel respond? What did he say?

Did Daniel admit his guilt? How do you know?

Was the king angry when he heard Daniel’s voice?

When Daniel was brought out of the lions’ den, was his arm broken, with scratches all over his body?
Why or why?

Based upon his words from the lions’ den, how did Daniel feel about the king?

What was done to Daniel’s accusers? Did the king make their families suffer for their folly?

Did an angel keep the lions’ mouths closed this time?

Page 28

Daniel 6 – The Silver Leadership of the Medes and the Persians

By Holly Effiom

VV25-28

Did Daniel make a decree throughout all the land, inspired by this experience? Why or why not?

What did Darius decree throughout his kingdom?

Would you say that Darius believed in the God of Daniel?

LESSON: What was it about Daniel that he influenced heads of world powers, *empires*, to bow their knee to the Most High God?

Was it the manner in which he armed himself to the teeth and raised an army to overthrow the government and force all the inhabitants to worship the living God or die?

Was it the manner in which as soon as he was made chief of the wise men he set about having all the wise men burned at the stake or killed off somehow? So, why didn't Daniel do this – he had the power to do it?

That was not the type of war Daniel was sent to Babylon to wage. Daniel was sent to keep himself and his people alive and full of hope despite the disciplinary decree they were under – for Israel was under discipline, just as Nebuchadnezzar was for that 7 years he lost his mind. And Daniel did what he was called to do with integrity and truth and faithfulness to those he was called to serve.