



CAPITOL COMMISSION®

Daniel Practices Civil Disobedience

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

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Daniel 6:10-15 *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. 11) Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. 12) And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." 13) So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day." 14) And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him. 15) Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed." (NKJV)*

SHALL THE THRONE OF INIQUITY, WHICH DEVISES EVIL BY LAW, HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH YOU? THEY GATHER TOGETHER AGAINST THE LIFE OF THE RIGHTEOUS, AND CONDEMN INNOCENT BLOOD. BUT THE LORD HAS BEEN MY DEFENSE, AND MY GOD THE ROCK OF MY REFUGE. HE HAS BROUGHT ON THEM THEIR OWN INIQUITY, AND SHALL CUT THEM OFF IN THEIR OWN WICKEDNESS; THE LORD OUR GOD SHALL CUT THEM OFF. PSALM 94:20-23

Does Daniel do what he has always done, even though his life is in jeopardy? When these men assemble, is it always to commit conspiracy against Daniel? Why do they first confirm the decree again with the king before they tell him about Daniel? What are their five accusations against Daniel? At what point does King Darius know that he has been deceived and trapped by his own law? Why do they risk his disfavor to remind the king that his decree cannot possibly be changed?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- APRIL 10-12: DANIEL 6:16-23 *DANIEL'S FAITH IN GOD CONQUERS THE LIONS AND FILLS THE KING!*
- APRIL 17-19: DANIEL 6:24-28 *DECEITFUL ENEMIES EXECUTED AND DANIEL'S GOD EXALTED*

Civil disobedience had already been practiced by Daniel's three friends when they had refused to bow down to the golden image of King Nebuchadnezzar. That king had asked them, "*And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?*" (3:15) When the king saw them walking about in the intense fire of his furnace unharmed and enjoying fellowship with the "*Son of God,*" he changed his tune and made a new decree which forbade anyone from speaking "*anything amiss against*" their God with the penalty of being "*cut in pieces, and their houses be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this*" (3:29). In contrast to requiring a sin of commission, these conspirators had deceitfully introduced legislation that required of Daniel a sin of omission. But Daniel

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM – PRAYER MEETING – GAB 14TH FLOOR SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – GAB 14TH FLOOR SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

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continued to pray as he always had done in the same place, toward the same direction, with the same exposure, in the same position, at the same times and with the same thanksgiving as he had always done “*since early days.*”

HE WHO FINDS HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT, AND HE WHO LOSES HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE WILL FIND IT. MATTHEW 10:39 (MT. 16:25, MK. 8:35, LK. 9:24, 17:33, JN. 12:25)

I. CONSPIRATORS CAUCUS DANIEL 6:10-11

The word for “*prayed*” (6:10) is only found elsewhere in the Old Testament in Ezra 6:10, so likely Daniel is praying for the very king who signed the legislation outlawing his prayer. When the Scriptures say these men “*assembled,*” (6:11) it is the same word for “*thronged*” (6:6), revealing that there were plenty of conspirators gathered to witness Daniel’s prayer. They were overjoyed to find Daniel praying as they had expected, so that they could now destroy him with their newly weaponized legislation. Their evil plan had worked perfectly to ensnare and kill the humble statesman who was about to be promoted above them. They now had many witnesses to guarantee their word before the king that Daniel was continuing to pray illegally. Thus, they would soon enjoy shedding the innocent blood of the man who stood in their way as he is fed to the lions. Now, the only one they have to persuade to go forward with the execution is the king that they deceived into signing their lethal legislation.

THEREFORE I EXHORT FIRST OF ALL THAT SUPPLICATIONS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSIONS, AND GIVING OF THANKS BE MADE FOR ALL MEN, FOR KINGS AND ALL WHO ARE IN AUTHORITY, THAT WE MAY LEAD A QUIET AND PEACEABLE LIFE IN ALL GODLINESS AND REVERENCE. FOR THIS IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE IN THE SIGHT OF GOD OUR SAVIOR, WHO DESIRES ALL MEN TO BE SAVED 1 TIM 2:1-4

II. DECEITFUL DEFAMATION DANIEL 6:12-13

These legislators are concerned that the king will blame them for lying in getting him to sign their law and try to back out of executing Daniel for his civil disobedience. So, before mentioning Daniel, they want to make sure their law is secure before they spring their trap on him. They begin: “*Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?*” They likely had difficulty hiding their devilish delight when the king said, “*The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.*” Completely ignoring Daniel’s lifetime of impeccable public service, they begin their defamation by first belittling him in the mind of the king because he is a slave, “*one of the captives.*” Then that he is not one of them (a Mede or Persian) but “*from Judah,*” revealing their anti-Semitism. The next two are false accusations: he “*does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed.*” Daniel has proven consistently that “*they could find no charge or fault*” (6:4) and had impressed the king with his loyalty much more than they, thus the reason for his promotion. Their final accusation was true, but they were calling good evil: “*but makes his petition three times a day.*”

WOE TO THOSE WHO CALL EVIL GOOD, AND GOOD EVIL; WHO PUT DARKNESS FOR LIGHT, AND LIGHT FOR DARKNESS; WHO PUT BITTER FOR SWEET, AND SWEET FOR BITTER! ISAIAH 5:20

III. LIABILITY LEGISLATION DANIEL 6:14-15

As soon as they mention Daniel, the king saw the trap, and “*was greatly displeased with himself.*” Instantly he “*set his heart on Daniel to deliver him*” and never stops until the sun goes down. Their plot becomes undeniable when they throng the king again reminding him of the obvious and the barb on their hook in his nose: “*Know, O king ... that no decree ... which the king establishes may be changed.*” He knows their evil intent to murder his innocent favorite!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you an example in doing what you know is right even when it may hurt your legislative career?
- 2) Do you allow that which is good to be called evil and that which is evil to be called good without challenging it?
- 3) What is the price that you are willing to pay to be obedient, standing faithfully for God and the eternal truth of His Word?