

OBSERVATION

Who

Speaking- Daniel

Main characters- Daniel, Darius, commissioners and satraps.

What

Subjects being covered

The deception of Darius by the commissioners and satraps in the plot to kill Daniel for his promotion of high position and power.

Learn about subject or event

The commissioners and satraps use Darius' pride and logic in order to trap him into making an injunction that couldn't be undone.

Learn about people or event

Darius listens to and makes the injunction.

At first the commissioners and satraps are listened to and then afterwards they and their entire families are killed in the lions' den.

Daniel is hardworking, faithful, integrity-filled, committed first to God, and follows Him to potential death and back.

When

Do or will these events occur

After the fall of Babylon and as Darius is establishing rule and authority over his kingdom.

Where

Was it said

Before Darius, the palace, the lions' den, the entire kingdom

Why

At this time

Darius is establishing rule and authority in the kingdom as the Medes have defeated the Babylonians.

This person

The others are jealous of Daniel of his promotion and integrity and so are out to get him. Darius is new and is establishing the new kingdom. As Daniel has just been elevated to the third spot and served faithfully for over 70 years, and now is again elevated, the others are jealous and desire his downfall.

How

Is it illustrated

Deception, scheming, evil intent. Although it seems to carry out its conclusion of Daniel dying in the lions' den, it backfires with God's hand of deliverance. Ultimately, they and their families all die in the den.

Key Words and Phrases

kingdom

injunction- interdict, decree; a vow which should not be broken and so binding. a law with sanctions; a legally binding prohibition.

pray(ing)

rescue- extricate, deliver;

deliver- save, ie- deliver from physical harm;

trust- believe; to believe in, trust, depend on.

Lists

Daniel

Daniel was one of the three commissioners in charge of the whole kingdom.
Daniel begins distinguishing himself among the others due to his extraordinary spirit.
The king planned on appointing him over the entire kingdom.
Plotted against by the commissioners and satraps.
No ground of accusation to government affairs found.
No ground of accusation or evidence of corruption in him.
He was faithful.
No negligence or corruption found in him.
Knew he followed the law of God.
Prays privately (at home and 3 times a day) despite the injunction.
Prayers marked by thanksgiving to God.
His integrity and faithfulness to Darius is called into question as he disobeys the injunction by the satraps.
King desires to deliver Daniel, but can't due to the injunction.
Darius knows that Daniel is a God-follower (by v 16).
Daniel goes to the lions' den.
Gives God the glory in his deliverance from the lions.
Speaks the truth of his innocence before God and Darius.
Taken up out of the den injury free.
Justice served by those who maliciously accused Daniel, along with their families, are cast into the lions den and are instantly killed.
The greatness of God, through the witness of Daniel, is decreed to the entire kingdom by Darius.
"The God of Daniel"- Darius
"God is one who delivered Daniel from the power of the lions"- Darius
Enjoyed success in the reign of Darius the Mede.
Enjoyed success in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel's prayer time

Thanksgiving

Guidance and help

Commissioners and satraps

120 satraps & 3 commissioners

Were to be in charge of the whole kingdom

Accountable to the king

Goal was so the king would not suffer loss

Go to work in trying to bring down Daniel

Found nothing in government affairs.

Only could they find in terms of his religious practice.

Were all in agreement with one another

All go before the king in unison

Get him to sign the agreement which seems good to a man but ends in death.

Go in unison and seek out Daniel praying

Go before the king with the evidence

Go before the king (again) and force his hand using the rules of the law.

After Daniel is saved and brought out of the lions den, and after the king found out the malicious plan of them, he had them and their families thrown to the lions, who were killed instantly by the lions.

Where the men looked for dirt

Job (government affairs, negligence, corruption)

Personal life (religion)

The process of bringing one down

Jealousy (or reason for hatred).

Find others who agree.

Come up with evidence of wrong-doing.

By putting the others entire life under the microscope.

Verify that said action is wrong, illegal, etc.

Present evidence before the powers that be.

Make sure the authorities dole out the consequences.

Darius' actions

Seems good to appoint 120 satraps and 3 commissioners over the entire kingdom to assist him.

Makes an injunction based on the advice of his support staff that all are to worship

Darius alone for 30 days (brings unity in the new kingdom).

Affirms the injunction that he had made.

Deeply distressed and set his mind on delivering Daniel until sunset.

Orders Daniel to be cast to the lions.

King seals the den with his signet ring

King goes off to his palace and fasts and has no entertainment and couldn't sleep.

At dawn he runs to the den, hoping Daniel is alive!

Gave order to have Daniel brought out of the den.

Gave orders to cast those malicious accusers (and their families) to the den.

Writes to all the empire about fearing and trembling before the God of Daniel.

God truths

He is the living God

He endures forever

His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.

His dominion will be forever.

He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth.

He delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Compare and Contrasts

Compare the focus of Daniel with the focus on the men.

The good of the kingdom over the downfall of Daniel.

Contrast what the men were looking for (a ground of accusation) and what they found (no accusation or evidence of anything).

Contrast Darius in his palace and Daniel in the den.

Darius has no peace nor sleep. Daniel has peace and security.

Compare what happens to Daniel and to the men and why.

Daniel is spared because he trusts in his God and the men (and their families) are killed instantly.

Contrast Darius with King Belshazzar.

Reigned by wisdom, reigned in arrogance and drunkenness.

Expressions of Time

Then- 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25,

Now- 8, 10,

Continued- 10

Previously- 10

30 days- 7, 12

3 times a day- 13

until sunset- 14

at dawn, at the break of day- 19

constantly- 20

enduring forever (2)- 26

in the reign of Darius

in the reign of Cyrus

Chapter Theme

Daniel's trust in God saves him

Daniel and the lions' den

Daniel found not lacking

Lessons for Life

- The follower of God trusts in their God in everything.
- The follower of God turns to Him in times of apparent adversity and evil plans and plots.
- The follower of God lives out who they are internally no matter the external situation.
- Those bent on bringing down the believer will stop at nothing until they do so (so their only fodder should be the life lived in Christian integrity).
- The follower of God is called to excel in whatever task is before them.
- The follower of God places relationship with God over everything, and honorably faces the consequences.
- The believer doesn't use their faith as an opportunity to be lax and lazy and double-minded. Rather they do everything in excellence, focused on the responsibilities given, in order to make God's name great.
- The follower of God is marked by prayer, hard work, integrity, faithfulness, and trust in God no matter what.
- The faithfulness of one person bringing glory to God's name has the potential to bring about God's exaltation to millions! The faithful witness lives faithfully and expects God to exalt Himself however He chooses.
- The follower of God doesn't need to compromise to succeed (Wiersbe).

INTERPRETATION

Ah, the beginning of yet another new phase in Daniel's life. The Babylonian kingdom has fallen at the hands of God's providence and the Median-Persian spear. As Darius begins establishing his kingdom and order within his realm, it seems good to him to establish a hierarchy of 3 commissioners who oversee 120 satraps, would be in charge of the entire kingdom. His purpose in this is so that he not suffer loss and maintain order within the empire. Upon receiving their orders, Daniel begins to surface as the

one with most promise, potential, and aptness for the position with which he has been entrusted. Upon seeing this, Darius plans to appoint Daniel over the entire kingdom. In a fit of jealous and rage, the others decide to bring Daniel down. In searching him, they find him to be a man of honor, integrity, hard work, and without any impurity, corruption, or negligence. So they move to searching out his personal life for anything that will bring him down. Knowing him to be a jealous and devout man, they begin with his religion as an opportunity to call into question his allegiance to the king and the empire.

With their plan in hand, they, as one (however without Daniel), they enter before the king with a plan to bring empire-wide unity and commitment to him, ask that all be forced to worship Darius for 30 days, with those not doing so being brought to the lions for death. Evidently they made a good impression to the king, so he signs the injunction that they know will bring Daniel's death.

Upon knowing about the injunction, Daniel remains undisturbed, unwilling to go to the right or to the left, and prays as he always has.

With the proof now in hand, the men return to Darius, hold his hand to the fire (due to his doing everything within his means to save Daniel), which ultimately leads to Daniel's being thrown to the lions.

Upon fulfilling his word, Darius is deeply moved and hopes that Daniel will be saved through his God. In the morning, Darius returns to the den to find Daniel alive and well. Upon ordering his removal from the den, he then orders all those who meant Daniel's death to be thrown into the den. Upon falling in to the den, along with their wives and children, the lions go about instantaneously killing them all.

It is after this that Darius decrees the greatness of the God of Daniel to the entire empire. And this is most certainly the reason God sends Daniel through this ordeal, for in the end Darius proclaims the glory and greatness of God to his entire kingdom! His suffering was certainly an opportunity to bring glory to God!