

Daniel: The Impact of a Godly Influence

Daniel 6:1-28

Daniel 6:1-28 (NASB)

¹ “It seemed good to Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, that they would be in charge of the whole kingdom,

² and over them three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), that these satraps might be accountable to them, and that the king might not suffer loss.

³ Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.

⁴ Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or *evidence of corruption*, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was *to be found* in him.

⁵ Then these men said, “We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him with regard to the law of his God.”

⁶ Then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows: “King Darius, live forever!”

⁷ “All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions’ den.”

⁸ “Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked.”

⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.

¹⁰ Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.

¹¹ Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God.

¹² Then they approached and spoke before the king about the king's injunction, “Did you not sign an injunction that any man who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, is to be cast into the lions' den?” The king replied, “The statement is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked.”

¹³ Then they answered and spoke before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps making his petition three times a day.”

¹⁴ Then, as soon as the king heard this statement, he was deeply distressed and set *his* mind on delivering Daniel; and even until sunset he kept exerting himself to rescue him.

¹⁵ Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed.”

¹⁶ Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions’ den. The

king spoke and said to Daniel, “Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you.”

¹⁷ A stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed in regard to Daniel.

¹⁸ Then the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him.

¹⁹ Then the king arose at dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions' den.

²⁰ When he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?”

²¹ Then Daniel spoke to the king, “O king, live forever!”

²² “My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime.”

²³ Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So, Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

²⁴ The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they cast them, their children and their wives into the lions' den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

²⁵ Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language who were living in all the land: “May your peace abound!”

²⁶ “I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion *will be* forever.”

²⁷ “He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has *also* delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

²⁸ So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.”

Daniel had the rare opportunity to influence four kings and their kingdoms with godly principles. Remaining true to God often meant putting himself in danger, but he never once wavered in his convictions. The record of his life shows us what is required of someone who wants to have a godly impact on those around him.

Complete confidence in the Lord's ability to protect and provide empowered Daniel to make bold decisions. He delivered bad news to kings, even though such an act could have gotten him killed ([Daniel 2:26-44](#); [Daniel 5:17-28](#)).

[Daniel 2:26-44 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁶ “The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and its interpretation?”

²⁷ Daniel answered before the king and said, “As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians *nor* diviners are able to declare *it* to the king.”

²⁸ “However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind *while* on your bed.”

²⁹ “As for you, O king, *while* on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will take place.”

³⁰ “But as for me, this mystery has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than *in* any *other* living man, but for the purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.”

³¹ “You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome.”

³² “The head of that statue *was made* of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze,

³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

³⁴ “You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.”

³⁵ “Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”

³⁶ “This *was* the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king.”

³⁷ “You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory;

³⁸ and wherever the sons of men dwell, *or* the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given *them* into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.”

³⁹ “After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.”

⁴⁰ “Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.”

⁴¹ “In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay.”

⁴² “As the toes of the feet *were* partly of iron and partly of pottery, *so* some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle.”

⁴³ “And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.”

⁴⁴ “In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.”

Daniel 5:17-28 (NASB)

¹⁷ “Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Keep your gifts for yourself or give

your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the interpretation known to him.”

¹⁸ “O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father.”

¹⁹ “Because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language feared and trembled before him; whomever he wished he killed and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated and whomever he wished he humbled.”

²⁰ “But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and *his* glory was taken away from him.”

²¹ “He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like *that of* beasts, and his dwelling place *was* with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and *that* He sets over it whomever He wishes.”

²² “Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this,

²³ but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and all your ways, you have not glorified.”

²⁴ “Then the hand was sent from Him and this inscription was written out.”

²⁵ “Now this is the inscription that was written out: ‘MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.’”

²⁶ “This is the interpretation of the message: ‘MENE’—God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.

²⁷ “‘TEKEL’—you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient.”

²⁸ “‘PERES’—your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians.”

What’s more, he challenged a law requiring him to violate God’s command to worship only Him ([Daniel 6:7-11](#)).

[Daniel 6:7-11 \(NASB\)](#)

⁷ “All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions’ den.

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Daniel wasn't intent on being popular; he was committed to doing what was right in the eyes of the Lord. And when he had to face consequences for choosing the unpopular course of action, he did so with a calm and Christ-like spirit. Offering no complaint, Daniel accepted the punishment of being thrown into a den of lions—he had, in fact, broken the law.

It is so tempting to think that if we do what is right, we should be rewarded or at least protected. But we live in a broken world, and sometimes doing what is right will get us punished. How we respond to the consequences of our obedience is actually as important as carrying out God's will. Our reaction is being watched and evaluated by those in our sphere of influence, who want to see if we really believe our claim that the Lord is in control. God is using our experience and our witness to reach others for the kingdom.