

The Book of Daniel Part 13

Daniel 6

by Erik Olsen

-DANIEL'S PERSONAL, DAILY COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING INTIMACY WITH GOD WAS A STRATEGIC LINK...

--Daniel's unwavering commitment to pray and "petition" God three times a day violated Medo-Persian law:

--6:6-9: "...So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him:"King Darius, live forever! 7 All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. 8 Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." 9 Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

--Daniel was thrown in the lions den because of His prayers to God...

--Daniel's miraculous survival in the lions den resulted in Darius signing a decree that "that **in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel...**" (6:26)

--the decree of Darius that resulted from Daniel's deliverance from the lions den helped set the stage for the decree of Cyrus given later that year when he commissioned Ezra to lead a group of Israelites back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple:

--historical clarification: King Cyrus placed King Darius in charge as a deputy King of "the realm of the Chaldeans" (see Daniel 9:1), which included the city of Babylon

--Ezra 1:1-4: "Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: 'All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. 3 Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem. 4 **And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.**' 5 Then the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, with all whose spirits God had moved, arose to go up and build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem. 6 And all those who were around them encouraged them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with precious things, besides all that was willingly offered. 7 King Cyrus also brought out the articles of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem and put in the temple of his gods; 11 All the articles of gold and silver were five thousand four hundred. All these Sheshbazzar took with the captives who were brought from Babylon to Jerusalem."

--Daniel 9 gives us an inside view of Daniel's prayer life during the year that he was thrown in the lion's den:

--9:1-4: "In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans [see historical clarification note in previous sub section] — 2 in the first year of his reign I, **Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.** 3 **Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.** 4 **And I prayed to the LORD my God,** and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments... .. 16 O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us. 17 Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his

supplications, and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. 18 O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. 19 O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

--THE STRATEGIC LINK OF MAINTAINING INTIMACY WITH GOD IN OUR LIVES...

--The problems of life might surround our soul like roaring lions; but when we maintain intimacy with God on a daily basis, the mouth of the lions are shut and our soul is protected from being ravaged... How much more would our thinking be aligned with the Spirit if we followed Daniel's example and set aside time three times a day for quality prayer and meditation time with God?

--Philippians 4:6-7: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

--Isaiah 26:3: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee..." (nkjv)

--1 Thess 5:16-18: "16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

--cultivate intimacy with God by thinking and praying about what He has told us through His Word...

--examples:

--**think and pray about the basis of our relationship with God:** the righteousness of Jesus Christ which has been "credited" to our account...

--Romans 4:4-8: "However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. 6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

--1 John 4:19: "**We love Him because He first loved us.**"

--**think and pray about the spiritual wealth we have in Christ...**

--Ephesians 1:7-8 "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence..."

--Ephesians 1:15-21: Paul gave us an example prayer for a greater understanding of what we have in Christ... "Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,** 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come." (Ephesians 1:15-21)

Col 3:1-4: "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.