**Surviving in Dangerous Times – Lesson 9 – Daniel 6**

I. Review (Jer 31:31-33, Ezek 36:22-28)

II. A Political Conspiracy Develops (v1-9)

A. One of the best known “stories” in the Bible

B. The setting

1. Timeframe – probably between 538 and 536 BC

2. Political appointments – purpose was that the king would not suffer loss

a. 120 satraps – governors over main provinces

b. 3 commissioners – emirs over the satraps

4. Daniel was a commissioner who distinguished himself over all others

a. Had an extraordinary spirit – Daniel not shaped by values of culture around him

b. King planned to appoint him over the whole kingdom

c. God gracious in giving him favor and influence

d. But it will also be costly to remain faithful to God – world hates you (Jn 15:19)

C. Other commissioners and satraps plot to undermine Daniel – jealous and envious

1. Similar situation develops to that of Chap 3

2. Conspiracy tries to find grounds of accusation against Daniel in regards to government affairs (Ps 56:6)

a. No evidence of corruption

b. Daniel completely faithful

3. Could find no grounds of accusation except in regards to the law of his God

4. An appeal to the pride of the king

a. Come in mass and proclaim “King Darius, live forever” – use false unity

b. United, they propose new statute established by king that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man other than the king should be cast into lion’s den (Ps 2:1)

(1) Duration of statute would be 30 days

(2) Used flattery to encourage king to establish the injunction and sign it into law

(3) A law of the Medes and Persians could not be revoked

5. King signs the document (Ps 59:3)

III. Daniel “Caught” in Their Trap (v10-15)

A. Daniel intentionally disregards injunction

1. Clear choice with clear consequences (live or die a violent death)

2. Waited until he knew the document had been signed

3. Went to second floor of his house with windows open toward Jerusalem (I Ki 8:46-51)

a. Defiantly prayed (Ex 20:3)

b. Gave thanks as he had previously been doing

c. Focus of his prayer was welfare of his people and God’s sanctuary

d. Consistency of prayer important

B. Satraps and commissioners find Daniel praying to God – his faithfulness enabled them to catch him (Ps 37:32-33)

C. Conspirators approach king about Daniel’s disregard for the law

1. Ask an impersonal question quoting the injunction – then ask did you make it?

2. Did it have the penalty of being thrown in the lion’s den?

3. King responds affirmatively to the questions

4. Accuse Daniel of failing to pay attention to the king and of not following injunction

a. His offense was hostile to the king and his authority

b. It was also habitual, not just a momentary lapse

D. King spends time trying to think of a way to deliver Daniel

1. Deeply distressed

2. Worked on his ideas until sunset to rescue Daniel

E. Conspirators tell king of the futility of trying to change law

IV. Daniel Sent to the Lion’s Den (v16-18)

A. King tells Daniel that God, who Daniel constantly serves, would deliver him (Ps 118:8-9)

B. Daniel thrown in the den

1. Mouth of den blocked with stone cover & sealed by rings of king and other politicians

2. God not committed to our comfort, but to our sanctification and His own glory through us – I Pet 1:6,7

C. King goes to his palace

1. King went from naïve to compassionate to helpless

2. Spent the night fasting – ironically, so did the lions

3. Declined all entertainment

4. Did not sleep – had no peace despite all his “stuff”

V. Plot Reversal after the Lion’s Den (v19-24)

A. King arises at dawn and goes to the lion’s den in haste

B. Cried out to Daniel and asks with a troubled voice to see if God had delivered him

C. Daniel responds “O king, live forever”

1. God sent His angel to shut the mouths of the lions – Heb 11:33, Ps 34:7

2. Not harmed since he was found to be innocent before God and before king

D. King pleased

1. Ordered Daniel to be taken up from the den

2. No injury found on him at all because he trusted in God

E. King orders conspirators and their families to be put in the den – overpowered and crushed by the lions before they reached the bottom of the pit – Prov 11:8, 12:13

VI. King Praises God of Daniel (v25-28)

A. Wrote a document for all the people of the kingdom

1. Everyone is to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel

a. He is the living God – as opposed to all their dead ones

b. He endures forever

c. His kingdom will not be destroyed – it is forever

d. He delivers, rescues and performs signs and wonders

e. He delivered Daniel from the lions

B. Daniel advanced during the reigns of Darius and Cyrus

VII. Daniel 6 for us today

A. Must have character and values of God’s kingdom, not the one around us

B. Importance of a consistent prayer life – Col 4:2 (Ampl)

C. Prepare to suffer as Christ followers – I Thes 3:4, II Tim 3:12

D. Daniel’s rescue not typical in this present age, but is typical of what happens on final judgment for those trusting Christ

VIII. Parallels between Daniel and Jesus

A. Daniel delivered to Darius through unjust conspiracy

B. Found guilty though he had done nothing wrong; king tried to release him

C. Sentenced to death by lions

D. “Tomb” sealed with a stone

F. Raised from the death penalty

G. Came out of a would-be grave to serve God some more