

The Bible Panorama – The Major Prophets V: Daniel

“Prayer in God’s Sovereignty”

Daniel 6:1-16

Going Beyond the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on June 4, 2017

Entering In:

Give two examples to prove “history” is indeed “His (God’s) Story”.

1. Connect the related points to each other.

- Isaiah
- Daniel
- Jeremiah
- Ezekiel
- Northern Kingdom (Israel)
- Southern Kingdom (Judah)
- The weeping prophet
- The last priest of Judah
- The little Bible
- “God is my judge” or “God is judging”
- 586 BC
- 722 BC

2. Daniel was a captive in the first exile and had to witness the second and third exiles. How would he feel as he heard about the fall of Judah in Babylon?

Have you had any experience of receiving the opposite against something for which you prayed? How did that affect (or change) your faith in God?

3. What was Daniel’s appointed office in the kingdom (v.2)?

What qualities made Daniel so successful in Babylon even though he was a captive?

What evidence do you see in the text that Daniel’s accusers presented their case against him in the worst possible light?

Have you experienced being falsely accused regarding your faithful work just as Daniel was?

How do you respond to your accusers when they slander you to others?

4. Describe Daniel’s prayer life as it is reported in our text.

- How often did he pray?
- In what position?
- To what direction did he face?
- About what did he pray?

Is there any Scriptural support for the habit of praying three times a day (cf. Psalm 55:7)?

For what reason(s) might he have faced Jerusalem when he prayed (cf. 1 Kings 8:33, 35)?

5. Why do you think Daniel continued his daily prayer routine even when he knew it could be dangerous?

Do you have a daily prayer routine?

Everybody knew that Daniel was a man of prayer, even his enemies. Does anybody know that you are a person of prayer?

6. What *confessions* are made when we pray to God? Choose one of the following suggestions and explain how it is a *confession*, then add some ideas of your own at the end of the list.

- A. His conviction regarding who is the only God
- B. His need for God's help and guidance
- C. His own vulnerability as an exile
- D. His dependence on God for all things
- E. Other

7. What do the *opened* windows symbolize?

Why do you think Daniel did not keep his prayer a secret even though he prayed in secret?

Why do you think Daniel could still thank God even while he was in a seemingly hopeless situation?

How do you personally thank God when you cannot think of much for which to thank him?

8. King Darius was greatly distressed at the report that he heard. Why was he distressed (what was causing the tension)?

The law that demanded that Daniel be sacrificed and the king's love towards Daniel that demanded that he be saved suggests a similar paradox revealed later in redemptive history. How did God solve this same dilemma in the redemptive work of Jesus?

Ancient kings often thought of themselves as gods, or representatives of God on earth. What power did the true God demonstrate that King Darius did not have?

What does this teach you about where you should direct your *prayers* or where you should turn for help when you need it?

Living It Out:

*How might you change your practice of prayer as you consider these things?
Share your idea with your group, and then plan to make prayer one of your holy habits.*