Daniel and the Lions

Daniel 6

1. Intro
   1. The years have marched on from the incident with the Fiery furnace
   2. A Chaldean named Belshazzar became king, and then died
   3. Darius the Mede comes into power
   4. Darius begins to reorganize the Empire by promoting 3 men to powerful positions to rule over regional governors.
   5. Daniel finds himself, advanced in years now, but in a powerful position.
      1. This is due to His character, and God’s desire to use Daniel
      2. This is evident in that Daniel is then promoted to oversee the other two overseers.
   6. And controversy ensues.
2. Text
   1. Daniel 6:1-5:
      1. setting the scene
      2. Daniel is a man of character, and they know the only way to bring him down is to ask him to do something against his God.
   2. Daniel 6:6-9:
      1. Conspiracy theory
      2. Busy bodies are always busy, and its not a good business
   3. Daniel 6:10-15
      1. Daniel continues to Pray to the God with authority
      2. The Conspirators seize the moment
      3. The King is greatly troubled, this story has an ominous tone
   4. Daniel 6:16-18
      1. The king has a small understanding of the vastness of God.
      2. He declared…What he hoped to happen…but was powerless
   5. Daniel 6:19-24
      1. Daniel was delivered, the king was amazed and relieved
      2. The Lions were not simply off their game that day, they got a chance to show their ability.
      3. King Darius punished the men and their families and the Lions did what lions do.
   6. Daniel 6:25-28: Once again, the testimony of God’s faithfulness impacts the Empire
3. Point
   1. The Servant of God
      1. The Servant of God is protected by God
      2. The Servant of God may be in a position of uncertainty, but their is never uncertainty with God.
      3. The Servant of God may be called upon to do hard things, FOR GOD’S GLORY
      4. The Servant of God may be asked to endure impossible situations, FOR GOD’S GLORY
      5. The position of the Servant of God:
         1. Psalm 125…
         2. The Lord is not “on your side”, He surrounds His servant!
         3. This is a safe and secure position that allows us to grow in faith and trust!

A Song of Ascents.

125

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,  
    which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

2

As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
    so the Lord surrounds his people,  
    from this time forth and forevermore.

3

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest  
    on the land allotted to the righteous,  
lest the righteous stretch out  
    their hands to do wrong.

4

Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,  
    and to those who are upright in their hearts!

5

But those who turn aside to their crooked ways  
    the Lord will lead away with evildoers!  
    Peace be upon Israel!

* 1. The Nature of the Enemy
     1. Lions will do what Lions do.
        1. Facts about Lions:
           1. A Lion can weigh 275-400 pounds as an adult
           2. Lions can eat 80 pounds of meat in a single meal
           3. Lions hunt in packs and work together with intelligence
           4. A lions roar can be heard from 5 miles away when joined with the combined roar of the pride. Marking territory.
           5. Lions have a bite force of 650-1000 psi, and combined with others in the pride, and subdue large animals. (Strongest human…150 psi)
        2. Lions are dangerous
     2. Busy Bodies will do what Busy Bodies do
        1. Facts about busy bodies:
           1. Busy bodies will lie cheat and steal
           2. Busy Bodies will create a false narrative, and believe it sometimes, when the facts don’t fit their needs.
           3. Busy Bodies will attack in packs, and though they aren’t powerful in their own right, they are vicious when they feel they have developed a following of people who agree.
        2. Busy Bodies are dangerous
     3. The Enemy of God will demonstrate his intentions by actions:
        1. Conspiracy theories, lies, and misinformation can cause division
        2. But the truth of God’s word, and the life lived above reproach will overcome.
     4. How then do we act?
        1. Ephesians 5: Walk circumspectly for the days are evil
        2. Be prepared, and be vigilant
        3. Do not grow lax, let your faith empower you!
  2. The Supernatural Intervention
     1. God’s work is always supernatural, after all, He is Supernatural!
     2. When God intervenes, He does so for the good purposes of His alone.
     3. We have a God who has a track record of doing supernatural things, while also working within the natural world.
     4. These areas cross and intermingle to a point where we become so familiar with the work of God that His work seems natural.
     5. Think about it:
        1. The Lions were not able act on their natural will.
        2. The Fire was not allowed to act to its natural design.
        3. The Storm in the Sea of Galilee was powerless against the spoken word of Christ
        4. The strongholds and fears we face are likewise powerless against the will of God.
        5. Make no mistake, God can do what is necessary, when it is necessary, by whatever means is necessary to accomplish His will.

1. Close