

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Darius knew of Daniel's faith. Why did he sign the decree? What lesson is this for us?
2. After the decree, why didn't Daniel pray to God secretly?
3. What was necessary for God to deliver Daniel?
4. What happened to the plotters? (see Galatians 6:7)

SUMMARY:

The Bible says, if you want to be great, serve others. The world says, if you want to be great use others to serve you and your desires. It is ironic that throughout history as one rose to power, there always rose one stronger who could and did depose him, or the very thing that made a person great in the eyes of the world brought him low. Here we see men who thought that they could selfishly serve their own ends by trickery and flattery. It even seemed for a time that they were successful. Note carefully the end results: not only were the accusers destroyed, but even those who had not participated directly in the deed, yet perhaps had tacitly agreed to it. Love lifts up while greed drags down.

It is too bad that men cannot learn from history. History not only teaches the futility of such earthly rewards and achievements as men seek after, but when learned, properly points to the living God who will provide the real rewards and the real achievement which is a membership in the body of Christ and an eternity in His presence.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #11

June 16, 2013

Second Quarter

DANIEL DELIVERED FROM THE LIONS

LESSON TEXT: *Daniel 6:1-28*

LESSON SETTING: In the palace of Babylon where Darius is now ruler.

TIME: Approximately 538 B.C.

I. DARIUS' DECREE Daniel 6:1-9

- A. A Conspiracy (vs. 4) Matthew 12:14; Acts 23:12
- B. Exalting the King (vs. 6)
- C. Evil Counsel (vs. 8) 1 Kings 12:10; 2 Chronicles 22:3
- D. The Decree (vs. 8-9)

II. DANIEL'S DEDICATION Daniel 6:10-15

- A. Steadfast (vs. 10) 1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 5:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:15
- B. Thankful (vs. 10) Psalm 100:4; Colossians 1:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- C. Prayerful (vs. 11) Psalm 55:17; Luke 2:37

III. DIVINE DELIVERANCE Daniel 6:16-28

- A. Trust in God (vs. 16) Psalm 125:1; Proverbs 29:25
- B. Divine Protection (vs. 22) 2 Chronicles 16:9; Psalm 34:7; 91:4
- C. Fear of God (vs. 26) Isaiah 8:13; Matthew 10:28; 1 Peter 2:17
- D. Deliverance (vs. 27) 1 Samuel 17:37; 2 Timothy 4:18; 2 Peter 2:9

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *THY GOD WHOM THOU SERVEST CONTINUALLY, HE WILL DELIVER THEE.* Daniel 6:16

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Esther 2:1-23

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Genesis 41:14-44;
Revelation 19:1-10

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People in Captivity

TOPIC: ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN

INTRODUCTION:

We talk about "witnessing" for our Lord and we often have preconceived ideas how we should "witness". All too often, people take it upon themselves to go out to speak for Christ and often this is done door to door, or to people on the street. This has its value, but only if lives are being lived consistently. Sometimes "witnessing" can be repulsive to the hearers who can detect inconsistencies.

The example of Esther teaches us that one of the prerequisites of true witnessing is a spirit of meekness and obedience to God. God chose her to witness because He knew her heart. He placed her in the position where He could use her. This took preparation. It was not done overnight, but when the time came, she became a means of saving her people.

We, too, need preparation to "witness" for our Lord. A new convert can go out to witness but the real value lies in a life that is in conformity with the spoken word. Only time proves this and the listener may take a "wait and see" attitude. Does your life conform to your profession?

One thing is sure, if we want to be used of God and we prove our faithfulness to Him by separating ourselves from the world and by becoming meek and lowly, by depending upon Him, He will give us a work to do and a place to do it so that we will marvel. Yes, not only will He give us work to do, but more than we can even accomplish so that we will have no time for the world and its activities. We will find that even our families and our homes must take second place to the tasks the Lord lays before us. Are you willing to make such a sacrifice? If so you will become a good witness.

CENTRAL TRUTH: God is all-powerful and His ability to deliver is not limited by circumstances.

GOLDEN TEXT: *GOD IS THE JUDGE: HE PUTTETH DOWN ONE, AND SETTETH UP ANOTHER.*

Psalm 75:7

Our lesson particularly deals with Esther who was set up as a queen in the Provinces of Media and Persia probably in the last years of the captivity. She was made queen to replace Queen Vashti.

Vashti, a beautiful woman, was asked by the king to make an appearance before some of his rulers, but refused to do so. As a result she invoked the king's anger and was deposed.

We should really say this was part of God's plan to provide a place for Esther because she, also beautiful but obedient to God, was needed as an instrument of deliverance for God's people. God planted this instrument in the place where it could be best used when the time came.

In the same way, because of disobedience, God put down King Saul and raised up David as King. This was not done immediately, but David was being prepared so when the time did come, he would be there. As we look back over Biblical history we can only marvel how God works.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 17 – 23

M. The Kingdom of Ahasuerus. Esther 1:1-8

T. The Story of Vashti. Esther 1:9-22

W. *Esther Becomes Queen. Esther 2:1-20

T. Haman's Hatred. Esther 3:1-6

F. Haman's Conspiracy. Esther 3:7-15

S. Mordecai in Mourning. Esther 4:1-9

S. Mordecai Appeals to Esther. Esther 4:10-17

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