

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Daniel 6

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Daniel six gives real insight into the inner workings of the Medo-Persian empire. The government was divided into 120 satraps, much akin to a provincial ruler. Then those 120 were accountable to three governors, of which Daniel distinguished himself above the others. This brought jealousy among the ranks of those in authority. This is part of any empire and God's people are not immune to this kind of reality. Daniel distinguished himself above all the others. What does that mean? The Hebrew word that is the root is YTR, Yather, it is the word for having something "left over" or "something remaining over." In English we would say that Daniel went "above and beyond." He did more than others. When others left, he remained behind to make sure that everything was done as it should be. The King noticed this and more importantly, so did God.

Daniel's fellow governors knew that Daniel was conscientious and would always do the right thing, so the only way they could come against him was through his allegiance to his God. They knew he was a religious man and would be true to God. His fellow workers, his "friends" at work went before the king knowing that they could find no hypocrisy in Daniel

concerning his God, so they asked the king to decree that no one could make a petition to any man or his god for 30 days other than to the king himself. This sounded reasonable to the king, who did not know of the plot to trap Daniel, so the decree was made. The Law of the Medes and Persians could not be broken, once made, so the trap was set. When Daniel found out the law had been made, it did not change his conduct or pattern of life at all. He did what he had always done since his youth. He opened his windows toward Jerusalem three times each day and prayed to the God of his fathers and worshipped. The real motive for the trap came out in v.13, "So they answered and said before the king, 'That Daniel, who is **one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.**'" (Emphasis mine)

Prayer and Action Steps

Read the entire chapter again. See how Daniel was delivered by God. Remember the proverb, "Those that dig a pit for others will fall into it themselves..." Write the Biblical end to the story and tell it to your children and others.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?

