

Daniel 6:13-28 - Lion's, Losers and Praisers...O my!

Intro - We have come to the final part of this famous chapter about Daniel/lions. The first half tells us how he got into the den. The second half tells how he got out. Daniel was thrown in because of his godly civil disobedience. The law said he couldn't do something which God had commanded him to do, so Daniel rightly disobeyed. Daniel's highest devotion was to God. Daniel had exemplary character and faithfully served the nation in which he was a captor. It was his biblical work ethic (ethnicity) incited envy from his enemies. They plotted Daniel's demise and seemingly succeeded...until the table miraculously turned in Daniel's favor and his enemies became the flavor of the month for the hungry lions. This famous chapter doesn't end with lions, but in a liturgy of praise to Him who alone deserves it. *Lies Lions Lunch Liturgy*

LIES

- It is important to note that Daniel's dilemma was manufactured with lies.
 - Daniel's enemies had to lie and scheme in order to trap him.
 - Laws crafted to trap political enemies are nothing new.
- They lied to the king by implying that Daniel agreed with the proposed legislation.
 - 6:6-7 "...All the commissioners and satraps..."
 - Daniel was one of them but did not sign off on the proposal. (false poll)
- They lied by implying that Daniel was disloyal to the king.
 - 6:13 - "...he pays no attention to you.." no one more devoted than Daniel
- They lied to king about his exalted position
 - They flattered him by over elevating him (god) 6:7b man can't usurp God's position
 - Prov. 29:5 they were trying to trap Daniel and the king **checkmate**
- Agendas built on lies won't last
 - Lies have a limited success and longevity
 - The king quickly realized he had been manipulated by lies & flattery - 6:14-15

LIONS

1. The king was trapped by his own foolish actions... ever happen to you?
 - a. ...but had hope that God could clean up his mess. ever happen to you?
2. A stone was placed and sealed to insure the evil outcome - 6:17
 - a. Sealed stones can't stop God or His intended deliverance. Matt. 27:62-66
 - i. Sealed stones only magnify the miracle.
3. More details given about the night in the palace than the night in the den.
 - a. It seems that Daniel got a better night's sleep than king Darius - 6:18
4. The king had some faith in Daniel's God
 - a. 6:16b 6:20 (Mark 9:24)
5. Daniel's deliverance 6:21-22
 - a. These were not tame lions/old lions/full lions...they were hungry lions.
 - b. An angel shut their gaping/ferocious mouths. Kept from harming him
 - i. Like the Pillar of Fire that separated Israel from Egyptian army

- ii. Chained lions along the path in Pilgrims Progress
- 6. Daniels innocence - 6:22
 - a. A righteous civil disobedience is not sin
 - i. When a government: 1] - requires what God forbids ^(Dan. 3) ... or ... 2] - forbids what God requires ^(Dan. 6) ...it is good & godly to disobey.
 - ii. Only Jesus has all authority – Matt. 28:18 ^{governments have limited authority}
 - b. It is not disrespectful to the authorities to keep them in their proper place.
 - i. 6:21 - Daniel is very respectful
 - ii. 6:22 - Daniel committed no crime before the king

LUNCH

6:24 – These events happened early morning ^(6:19) but *Lies/Lions/Breakfast/ Liturgy* didn't fit well.

- A night of frustration for the hungry lions was unleashed on these families
 - This answers skeptics “*tame lions*” denial of miracle. ^(Red Sea shallow crossing - army drowned)
 - The king didn't appreciate being manipulated and lied to
 - Prov. 29:12 quick course correction - he fed the liars to the lions.
- This “lunch” is an important part of the story with some critically important lessons.
 - This part of the story is often overlooked/left out...don't skip lunch.
- God is not mocked
 - Gal. 6:7 Obadiah 15 Number 32:23 Psalm 7:14-16 Esther 7:10
 - Karma is a pagan distortion of a Christian doctrine
- *Lex Talionis* the law of just retribution/retributive justice
 - Eye for eye... perjurers punished according to their lie - ^{Deut. 19:18-19}
 - Man's law should mimic God's law

LITURGY

This chapter doesn't end with lions, it ends with a liturgy - a formal engagement of praise by the Persian king who published and executive order. 6:25-27 a good liturgy

1. Fear God
 - a. Any society that doesn't fear God is a foolish society - ^{Ps. 111:10 Eccles. 12:13-14}
2. Living God ^{this king knew the difference between the true God and false gods – 6:20, 26}
 - a. Not a lifeless idol but the Living God
 - b. Matt. 16:16 1 Thess. 1:9 1 Tim. 3:15 Heb. 10:31
 - i. Actress who left church over fear of OT God
3. Eternal God ^{Ps. 90:2 Is. 57:15 – inhabit eternity - NKJV}
 - a. He never ends nor is He ever out of date.
4. Dominion/Kingdom endures ^{Jer. 10:10}
 - a. No expiration date on His rule. Term never expires ^{Forever ensconced as King}
5. God who delivers ^{1 Tim. 4:10 Deut. 33:27}
 - a. Only the Living God who is Eternal, Sovereign and Fearful can deliver