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Daniel's Dynamic Devotions (Daniel 6:10)

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The clash between worldviews has threatened leaders since the beginning of time. Daniel writes of his source of strength during service in three successive world empires. Faithful at first with little things, God entrusted Daniel with greatness!

INTRODUCTION

Daniel was exiled to Babylon, one of perhaps a dozen teenagers chosen for training as candidates to serve in the royal court. The curriculum was designed to replace their faith, their trust in God, with faith in man (Daniel 1:4). Secular humanism is the contemporary name for this.¹ The Hebrew names of these young men were changed to reference one of the Babylonian idols. Next, they were allured with acceptance in the culture by the food of royalty.

FAITHFUL IN LITTLE

Daniel 1:8-9 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel.²

The King's food had been devoted to idols, the pagan deities. Some of it was listed in God's dietary prohibitions given to Israel (Leviticus 11:1-2). Note that Daniel risked execution by asking for this exception! His bold stance prevented persecution and led to respect. Jesus expressed this in a parable.

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much” (Luke 16:10). Are you being tested or trusted in something relatively little? Pray that you pass the test!

NO GROUND FOR ACCUSATION

Daniel 6:4-5 The administrators and satraps, therefore, kept trying to find a charge against Daniel regarding the kingdom. But they could find no charge or corruption, for he was trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was found in him. Then these men said, “We will never find any charge against this Daniel unless we find something against him concerning the law of his God.”³

Daniel served in Babylonian government for over sixty years, serving as chief advisor/administrator under the king. The Medes and Persians conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. Incoming King Darius also appointed Daniel as one of his top administrators. Daniel began distinguishing himself among the others, and Darius planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom. This began the conspiracy by his peers. They tricked Darius into passing a law that required worship of the king and prohibited prayer, and devotion to Jehovah God. Is your devotion to God the most serious charge that can be made of you?

TRUSTING GOD

Daniel 6:10 Even though Daniel knew that the new law had been written, he went to pray in an upstairs room in his house, which had windows that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day Daniel would kneel down to pray and thank God, just as he always had done.⁴

The jealous peers had Daniel thrown to the lions, but God caused the big cats to sleep through the night! The king promoted Daniel and his God, acknowledging Jehovah as Sovereign. In America, public servants are more commonly executed by the press, through the media. Are you striving to show kindness to your peers, respect to members of the press, and trust in the Lord God?

A PRAYER

Jehovah God, help me to be trustworthy in my work and disciplined in my faith. Draw me to seek Your wisdom as I study Your Word, reflecting on its powerful application in my life. Mostly Lord, grant me favor with You as well as those who You place in my life over these next few days, weeks, and years of service. I ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

¹ James Montgomery Boice, Daniel – An Expository Commentary. (BakerBooks). 1989. p17.

² The Holy Bible, New International Version. (Biblica, Inc.) 1984.

³ Holman Christian Standard Bible. (Holman Bible Publishers) 2003.

⁴ The Holy Bible, New Century Version. (Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 2005.