

Sunday 4th November 2018 – DANIEL

Study Group Notes

WELCOME:

- Have you ever been let down by an employer or close friend?
How did you feel?

WORSHIP:

- Read **Psalm 105:1-9** together as a prayer of praise. Recall how his wonders are manifested in our lives.

WORD:

- Daniel was a deportee from Judah to Babylon. He is now in his early 80's and had been recently appointed as a senior official in King Belshazzar's service.
- Belshazzar's kingdom has been overthrown by the Medes and Persians, and King "Darius" (probably a title for Cyrus) appoints Daniel as an "Administrator" (**5:29-30**).

Read Daniel 6

1. What was Daniel's position under Darius and what position did Darius intend for him? Why the promotion? (**6:1-3**)
2. Why do you think the other administrators and satraps were unhappy about this?
3. What was their initial plan to prevent Daniel's promotion (**6:5**)? Why was this plan unsuccessful?
4. Can you recall any incidences in modern-day politics or business when attempts have been made to discredit an opponent to advance one's position or argument?
5. What was the eventual plan to destroy their opponent Daniel (**6:5-8**)?
6. Why do you think it initially worked (**6:9**)? What does this say about Darius?

7. Read Exodus **20:1-17**. Which of these commandments were broken by the Administrators and Satraps?
8. Can you think about the Commandments in our own time and how laws have been passed to countermand each one (or, for all intents and purposes, the Commandments are now ignored)?
9. What would your response be if you were faced with being instructed to do something (or say something) that offended God's law, even if the instruction was a legal one?
10. Read **Psalm 18:16-24, 30-32**. In what ways do these verses help you with your response?
11. Read **1 Peter 2:13-20**. In what ways did Daniel submit himself to ... authority?
How should we do the same in the 21st Century?
12. What was Daniel's red line that he couldn't cross?
What did he immediately do (**6:10-11**)?
13. Can you imagine any red lines that you would not cross even though it might be legal or culturally acceptable to do so?
14. Read **James 2:14-26**. Do you think people today judge us by our faith or by our conduct? Was Daniel judged by his faith or conduct (**6:4**)?
How can our conduct, as Christians, bring people to Jesus?
How can we improve our conduct (as individuals and church) in this respect?
15. What got Daniel through his ordeal?
What should we concentrate on as life presents us with our personal "den of lions"?

Prayer:

- Pray that we remain steadfast in our trust of God and our obedience to him.
- Pray that our deeds will reflect God's will and will be noticed.
- Pray for the sick, frail and bereaved on our notice sheet.