

The Silent Blanket Over Daniel In The Lion's Den

Have you ever found yourself in a position when people are jealous of you because God has blessed you, because you have been shown favor in a situation. Have you been attacked or even brought down to be made low, I have good news for you, you are not alone. There are people who are experiencing persecution around the world for the sake of Christ.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is the one about Daniel in the lion's den. This story among many is one of the most popular ones told in the world. There are tremendous allegories and applications that we can take from this story and apply to our lives, but we also must remember that there was a man named Daniel that was in this situation and God gave him victory over his enemies.

The first thing that we have to see is Daniel was brought into this situation because of his devotion to his prayers to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Satan hates when people pray to the Lord, I'm talking about Christians. He knows that the prayers of God's people will greatly effect his evil work upon the earth, he knows that the church has power to prayer to bring his work to an end.

Daniel had enemies in the province of Babylon who were jealous of his position and power. These men tricked the King into making a decree that would put to death anyone that prayed to any other God or man within the thirty days of the decree. This put Daniel in a very awkward and unique position because he was faithful and consistent in his prayers to God.

The devil went out drastically...

to try to put a blanket of silence over the life of Daniel by inciting the hearts of evil men to get the king to put out a decree that would silence Daniel's prayer life. Daniel would not submit himself to an ungodly command. Those who pray and study the BIBLE will always discern the laws of the land. By his prayers, Daniel must have shaken the very foundation of Satan.

Why did the devil inspire such a decree?

The answer is simple, Satan knew that the prayers of a righteous man or woman prevails much. Daniel's stand of righteousness against an ungodly decree brought him much trouble, but he was unshakable. Look at the foolish decree the king signed in Dan 6:49

4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. 5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God. 6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever. 7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counselors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. 9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

The signing of this decree put Daniel in a bind...

because he would have to obey the king's decree or die in the lion's den. Although the king signed a decree, Daniel went home at his usual time and opened the window to pray toward Jerusalem three times a day. Now those wicked men who set Daniel up for the kill were watching and waiting for an opportune time to turn him in. When they saw and heard him praying to Jehovah the God of all creation, they went back and reported it to the king:

Look at verses 10-15

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. 11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. 12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. 13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day. 14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. 15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed. (Dan. 6:10-15).

The perplexing situation that Daniel faced...

did not bring a sense of defeat to him because he knew that God was pleased with him. That is not to say that he was not concerned about his situation. Concern and worry are two different sides of the coin. He was ready and able to face any penalty for his faith, because he was gravitated toward God's purposes; there was no grievance in his soul concerning his destiny.

His defiance of the king's decree was in right order, for he chose to please his commanding officer in Heaven; he respected the earthly king, but he worshipped the Heavenly King. Daniel knew that any law that opposed the Heavenly Law of God would not stand in the court of Heaven. He was justified before his God.

Let us learn the lesson from Daniel...

that we cannot stand with uprightness before the Great Judge in Heaven and plead our cause if we are in defiance to the Law of Heaven. To obey a law of man that is in contradiction to God's Holy Word would be treason in the eyes of God.

Daniel was very well aware of his defiance...

against the law of the land. He knew to denounce the sealed document of the king's own hand would mean INSTANT death. We must ask God for much wisdom in order that we know which laws are in accordance with His Will.

Two important questions concerning Daniel

Why did all the forces of hell come against Daniel?

Why did Satan have a personal grudge toward Daniel?

The answer

It was because Daniel stood up and raised the Holy standard of God in his providence. He shined his light. He actually held back the presence of darkness with his prayers. To put it even simpler, HE WAS A THREAT TO SATAN! If you are a threat to Satan you're a marked target for all the forces of hell.

Daniel was set up for a victory...

that would put him within the pages of Bible history forever. Understand this, you are the testimony of Jesus, written in the hand of God forever. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me, (Isa. 49:16). You can't be touched in the wound of His hand, for there the blood still flows. The devil cannot touch the Blood of Christ.

Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing (John 20:27). Believe it, if you are saved, you are in the wound of His Hand.

Those who stood opposed to Daniel...

now stepped forward to bring their accusations to the king. The issue upon Daniel's attack was jealousy because he was so distinguished from the rest of the governors that the king was thinking of elevating him to the position of leadership over the whole realm. Those who are hungry for power are led forth by fleshly jealousy, as were his accusers.

Daniel's peers were infuriated because of his excellent spirit; he had a character which displayed godly essence.

Do you think that this would be cause to make those fleshly leaders jealous?

You know it did! Satan saw a foothold in those envious leaders, so he incited them to do evil to God's man. Whenever God's favor is upon you, you will find disciples of the devil ready to launch their evils against you. Satan was stormed with the excellence of this man's spirit, he was outraged at his integrity in God; it drove Satan crazy. When you're right with God, you will be in a personal fight with the devil.

Satan is no match even for the weakest child of God...

because Christ is in the believer through the Holy Spirit. The opposition of the enemy is conformation of right standing with the Lord. Satan is afraid of the Authority of God in the believer and will flee at the presence of a true worshipper. The adversaries of Daniel provoked the decree of the king to bring trouble to him for they said"

Daniel 6:12-15

Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. [13] Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

Darius was displeased with himself because he had been tricked into making such a law. He sought to deliver Daniel, laboring to do so all day, but the enemies of Daniel held the king to his law as one which could not be altered (Daniel 6:14-15).

[14] Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.
[15] Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

Then the men went as a group to the king and said to him...

Remember, O king, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed" (Dan 6:12-15).

The earthly King Darius loved Daniel...

and when he learned that it was Daniel whom had broken the king's decree, he was distressed, and he set his heart to help Daniel to set him free. Within every government The LORD sprinkles His people in high offices to intercede for the church. Nevertheless the God of Daniel would not reverse the decree. God had a greater deliverance in mind for Daniel.

Do not argue with God...

when you do not see your deliverance from an earthly point of view. God is working to deliver you with His eternal arm, it is Spiritual and Powerful. We can pray diligently for our earthly king and the leaders who run our nation that God will give them discretion not to put any decree that is against God's law.

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; (1 Tim 2:13)

All authority is of God...

but not all authority is for God. The king was unable to liberate Daniel from this evil dilemma. Daniel was doomed to die because he was considered a lawbreaker. The hammer of the law and leaders came down with great thrust upon him.

The king gave the command and had Daniel thrown into the lion's den...

but he added these words, your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you. Daniel's testimony of God was perpetual, his service was influential, his prayers were steadfast, he was not shaken by the circumstances nor by those who threatened him.

Those lions were starving waiting for their prey...

they were looking forward to this grand feasting upon (man of God meat). (Satan's most delicacy is an accusation against a Christian, LET'S MAKE HIM STARVE). It seemed like Satan won the battle, he finally threw over Daniel the blanket of silence. However, when those lions took a look at Daniel, he had no earthly fragrance in his body, he had no earthly smell, no worldly aroma. No, his was the fragrance of God.

Satan can't eat holiness and integrity, he has no taste for faithfulness, no, and he cannot swallow humility.

God sent an angel...

to shut the mouth of the lions and made them lie down before the man of God. Your circumstances will bow before you when you're in right standing with God. That night, Daniel was not alone, for the king himself fasted for Daniel, pleading his case before the God of Daniel.

The darkness of that night brought forth the mighty Light of God...

Early the next morning the king arose and ran to where Daniel was. When he arrived he lifted up his voice in great lament and said, "Daniel servant of the Living God has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" Daniel lifted up his voice with great admonishment for the king for he said, "oh king live forever!"

Think about this for a moment. Daniel had time that night to accuse the king before God. He had time to nurse a grudge against him for allowing him to be thrown into the lion's den. Instead he submitted himself to God and he chose to forgive any grievances against the king, if he had any, and also those who put him in that situation. He did not allow the circumstance to make him bitter.

There is no victory in bitterness! We need not only to forgive those who come against us, but we need to pray for them that God would grant them mercy and grace. That's a hard thing to do sometimes but it is right before God. Luke 6:27-36.

The question also must be asked, how did the king know that he, (Daniel) served the Living God when there were so many gods in Babylon?

The answer

It's because he saw the Living God in Daniel's character and excellent Spirit. That night something happened in the heart of the king and he was fully converted to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Yes, he was converted to the God of Daniel.

Our testimony should be so powerful...

so bright and so clear that when people see us we literally are the reflection of God's love and power. We are testimonies to the world that Jesus Christ is alive and that His resurrection power is living in us who believe in him.

We should never be ashamed to confess Jesus Christ...

as our Lord and Savior before the world. Jesus said, But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Daniel had literally served God continually for 80 to 90 years and had experienced many demonstrations of his union with God. The king had absolute faith in the ability of God and in Daniel's power with God to deliver him from the lions. Daniel now had the same opportunity of showing his faith in God as did the Jews, (THE THREE HEBREW BOYS) of Daniel 3. The lions were no less terrible than the fiery furnace. God had power over both and His own chosen ones were delivered (Daniel 3:27; Daniel 6:22).

Daniel experienced a mighty deliverance from God...

his faith increased and his trust was shown perfect in the Living God. That morning the blanket of deception and accusation was torn up into a million pieces never to be seen again. That

morning the devil's disciples were thrown into the lions' den and they were destroyed never to bring havoc to the man of God again. It is often through the trials and tribulations that we experience God's deliverance from every possible danger so that we may trust in Him. In this way we grow and our faith becomes complete in Him.

Our enemies will be destroyed right before our eyes...

for God has prepared a table for us in the presence of our enemies.

Daniel prayed three times a day with his window opened and his face toward Jerusalem. The lesson in this is understood with childlike simplicity, Daniel's body was in Babylon, but his heart was in his God.

Jesus said...

I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world' (John 17:14). The Apostle Paul tells us to set our hearts on things above and not earthly things. This is the freedom of every believer, we don't have to live like the world. We are in the world but not of this world. Colo.3:1-3.

Daniel experienced the very words of Abraham Lincoln when he said, "truth that is buried will rise again"

Satan would try to put you under...

the pressure of his evil hand. His deception is to put you in a corner to make you feel as though there is no way out of your situation. Satan's attempt is to silence the voice of God in your life so that you cannot hear God in your situation. Your circumstances are not hopeless; God can resurrect you out of any situation you are facing right now. You must simply trust in Him and obey His commands.

God resurrected Daniel...

from that den and gave him newness of life, new strength, greater faith and greater hope. It was through Daniel's testimony of his trust in God that brought a nation under a new decree, the decree of God.

At times you may not see it, but God is changing not only your circumstances, but he is changing those things around you that we try to defeat you by turning it into an atmosphere for his dwelling. Don't be afraid Oh child of God for the Lord is about to position you into a greater place for a greater purpose. His glory and power of his Holy Spirit will give you strength to endure the battle that you might come out totally victorious in Christ. Remember that you are the fragrance of his presence.

Let us remember, that Satan's blanket of silence only serves to strengthen the work of God in your life.

God Bless

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