

Old Book for a New Day

Seminar on the Bible book of Daniel - #6

Daniel 6 - A Long Night

I. Darius the Mede - See Daniel 5:31 (862)

- A. The name of Darius the Mede is found nowhere except in the book of Daniel. No secular or archaeological source confirms Daniel's statement concerning Darius. In fact, all known sources list Cyrus as beginning to reign in 539 BC when Babylon fell to Medo-Persia.
- B. Since the book of Daniel has proven true regarding every other reference to reigning kings, we have reason to believe that Daniel is accurate about Darius. What supporting evidence do we have?
 - 1. Daniel 9:1 (866) says that "Darius...was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans." The "realm of the Chaldeans" refers to the area around the city of Babylon. Since the territory conquered and ruled by Cyrus included a much wider area than the "realm of the Chaldeans," this statement would infer that Darius co-ruled under Cyrus over this portion of his kingdom.
 - 2. After conquering the city of Babylon, Cyrus did not remain in the city, but moved on with his army on other military campaigns for about the next year. The "first year of Darius" is mentioned in Daniel 9:1. No second year is ever referred to. Thus it appears that Darius ruled in Babylon for about six months of "accession year" (from October 539 until the spring New Year in 538) and then a few months into his first year, upon which Cyrus returned and took over the reigns of government.
 - 3. Since all secular sources list the reign of Cyrus as beginning with the fall of Babylon, his reign and that of Darius overlap each other. The first year of Darius was also the first year of Cyrus, during part of which they co-ruled.

II. Man with an Excellent Spirit

- A. Spirit = "The _____ reaction to the _____ of life."
- B. Political dirty tricks
 - 1. Daniel's political life --
 - 2. Daniel's spiritual life --

III. A Deadly Plot

- A. Mass movement
- B. Legislation - Designed to set God's law against civil law
 - 1. Framed in secret
 - 2. Introduced for the apparent good of the government and people
 - 3. Central issue = WORSHIP - Religious difference construed as treason
 - 4. Death penalty
- C. Why did Daniel openly break this law?
 - 1. 2 Chronicles 6:36-39 (440)
 - 2. Matthew 6:5,6 (948)
 - 3. "As was his custom since early days" (v.10)
- D. Who suffered more that night?

IV. Stronger than Lions

- A. Scare tactics
 - 1. 1 Peter 5:6-9 (1201)
 - 2. 1 John 4:4 (1208)
 - 3. Philippians 4:4-7 (1161)
 - 4. Isaiah 26:3 (686)
 - 5. Psalm 91:13 (588)
- B. "Whom you serve continually..."
 - 1. No value to half service
 - 2. Whether He tames the lions or not
- C. Babylonian Justice - vs. God's Justice - Deuteronomy 24:16 (204); Ezekiel 18:4-20 (816)
- D. All the world hears of Daniel's God