

STANDING STRONG

Sunday, September 9, 2018
10:30 AM

In Daniel Chapter 1 we talked about **Eroding Foundations**

1. Internal Desires
2. The Flow of Cultural Pressure
3. Carnal Christianity
4. Fear of Failure
5. Cost Compromises

In Chapter 2 we said we need to **Look to God**

1. For Hope
2. For Answers
3. For Wisdom
4. For Strength
5. In All Seasons and All Circumstances

In Chapter 3 we saw that Stand Strong mean's **Not Bowing Down**

1. Don't Bow Down... No matter how BIG the ISSUES may seem
2. Don't Bow Down... No matter how POWERFUL the VOICES may be
3. Don't Bow Down... No matter how LOUD the NOISES may be
4. Don't Bow Down... No matter how VAST the MAJORITY may be
5. Don't Bow Down... No matter how HARSH the CONSEQUENCES can Be
6. Don't Bow Down... No matter how BEAUTIFUL the IMAGE may seem
7. Don't Bow Down... No matter how unCERTAIN DELIVERANCE may seem

Chapter 4 taught us to have a greater perspective of **Humility**

1. towards God,
2. towards ourselves,
3. and toward others

Daniel chapter 5 Teaches us the importance of living a life of **Repentance**

1. Awareness of Sin and its consequences
2. A Remorse for Sin
3. A Confession of your sin
4. A Desire to leave sin behind
5. A Hunger for more of Jesus
6. Acceptance of the work Christ has done for us
7. A growing hatred of sin and love of Christ

Daniel Chapter 6 - Trust

Daniel 6 New International Version (NIV)

Daniel in the Den of Lions

6 It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, **2** with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. **3** Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. **4** At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. **5** Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

6 So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! **7** The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. **8** Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” **9** So King Darius put the decree in writing.

10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

12 So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?”

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

13 Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.” **14** When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

15 Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.”

16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. **18** Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. **20** When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

21 Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! **22** My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

24 At the king’s command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions’ den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

25 Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth:

“May you prosper greatly!

26 “I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

“For he is the living God
and he endures forever;
his kingdom will not be destroyed,
his dominion will never end.

27 He rescues and he saves;
he performs signs and wonders
in the heavens and on the earth.

He has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions.”

28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus[[b](#)] the Persian.

*verses 1-5 demonstrate the that Daniel was consistently exercising the principles of standing strong that we have already discussed

KEY TEXTS:

Daniel 6:23 New International Version (NIV)

23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had **trusted** in his God.

Psalms 9:10 New International Version (NIV)

10 Those who know your name **trust** in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.

1. Trust God when things are changing around you
2. Trust God when those around you seek to tear you down
3. Trust God when things begin to get crazy

Acts 5:29 New International Version (NIV)

29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!

4. Trust God and keep on praying

Luke 18:1 New International Version (NIV)

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Luke 18:8 New International Version (NIV)

8 ...However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

5. Trust God when things go from crazy to horrible

6. Trust God even when your fate seems sealed

Corinthians 1:8-10 New Century Version (NCV)

8 Brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the trouble we suffered in Asia. We had great burdens there that were beyond our own strength. We even gave up hope of living. **9** Truly, in our own hearts we believed we would die. But this happened so we would not trust in ourselves but in God, who raises people from the dead. **10** God saved us from these great dangers of death, and he will continue to save us. We have put our hope in him, and he will save us again.

- a. He rolled away Lazarus stone and He rolled away His own stone - He can roll away your stone

Isaiah 25:9 New International Version (NIV)

9 In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

7. Trust God and let Him deal with your enemies

Deuteronomy 32:35 New International Version (NIV)

35 It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."

2 Kings 18:5 New International Version (NIV)

5 Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him.