

March 25, 2007
Shepherd's Community Church
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Daniel 6

“Integrity on Trial”

1. Intro - ch. 1
2. Destiny of Gentile Nations - ch. 2-7 (thus it was written in Aramaic for Gentiles)
Parallel chapters (2 & 7; 3 & 6; 4 & 5)
Ch. 2 & 7 = Overall Scope of Gentile History
2 - Neb. dream & image
7 - Daniel's dream & vision of 4 animals
Both chapters conclude with the Millennial reign of X
Ch. 3 & 6 = Gentile Power In Action, Persecuting God's People
3 - 3 friends in fiery furnace
6 - Dan. in lions' den
Ch. 4 & 5 = Two supernatural revelations given to two kings; both of whom need Daniel to interpret.
4 - Nebuchadnezzar's dream of impending debasement
5 - Belshazzar handwriting on wall
3. Destiny of Nation of Israel ch. 8-12 (thus in Hebrew again)
8 = Oppressions of Jews by Antiochus, then typical of Anti-X
9 = Oppressions of Jews during 70 Weeks extending to time of Anti-X
10-12 = Oppressions of Jews, first by Antiochus, then by Anti-X

- I. The _____ 6:1-15
A. _____ - Daniel

B. _____ - Accusers

WHY?

1. Their _____ was hurt.
2. Their _____ was limited.
3. Their _____ was running thin (v. 6 - “came by agreement” = thronging).
4. Their _____ was exposed - Jealousy.

C. _____ - DARIUS

Why not a FIERY FURNACE like before?

- Persians were Zoroastrians who regarded fire as sacred. It was wrong to cremate or punish by fire.
- Zoroastrianism: Zoroaster (660-583 B.C.)
- Tenets: 1. Shining sky revered as God. 2. Ormazd (under Mazda) is the universal spirit of good which is continually struggling against the spirit of evil (Ahriman). Good ultimately wins. 3. Mazda is the highest god who alone is to receive worship. Fire is the symbol of Mazda and thus is sacred. 4. The kingdom is within. Heaven & hell are mental states. The mind is a battle field on which good & evil fight. They had belief in an afterlife. 5. Dualistic. 6. Its Bible = Zend-Avesta.

D. _____

1. _____ to God - v. 10
2. _____ to their plot – v. 11-15
3. _____ to his law – v. 12, 14

II. The _____ - v. 16-23

A. The _____ of Darius

B. The _____ of Daniel

III. The _____ 6:24-28

A. Accusers - _____

B. Darius
_____ to his kingdom

2. _____ to God of Daniel

C. Daniel - _____

Discussion Questions:

1. Many Christians believe that if they lived a really godly life, then God would bless them with a life of ease. Where does that thinking come from? Is it biblical? (See Mt. 5:10-12; John 15:18-25; Acts 8:1-3; 2 Cor. 4:7-18; 2 Cor. 11:23-33; 2 Tim. 2:1-13; 3:10-12; Heb. 10:32-39; 1 Pet. 1:6-9; 4:12-19; Rev. 2:8-11) What should we “expect” if we live a life of godly integrity?
2. How old was Daniel in chapter 6? When does a believer “retire” from serving the Lord? Is there an age where believers should “leave the ministry to the young people”?
3. What does the word “integrity” mean? What evidence do we have that Daniel was a man of integrity (see Ezek. 14:12-20 as well as the entire book of Daniel)? Do you exhibit these qualities in your life? If not, why not and what can you do to develop them?
4. If you live a genuine life of integrity before men and before God, what might the impact be in the lives of:
 - a. Your family
 - b. Your fellow church members
 - c. Your neighbors
 - d. Your co-workers