

## What? In the World – Part 4

“Peace & Promotion through Persecution”

October 1, 2017, Sermon by: Pastor Bryan Tomes

Up to now, we’ve seen that Daniel was a man of purpose, Daniel was a man of purity, Daniel was a man of prayer, and today we’ll see Daniel is a man of peace.

You can have peace in the middle of a storm. You can have peace that God is going to deliver you no matter what situation or what circumstance you find yourself in. God is able to deliver you from anything.

### TEXT: Daniel 6:10-28

10 - But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. **He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.**

We see Daniel was a man of prayer. The other officials had gotten jealous of Daniel and they went to the king to have him sign a decree to keep anybody from praying to God because they knew Daniel was a man of prayer. Everyone was supposed to only pray to the king – people love when they are celebrated and acknowledged, some are addicted to approval.

11- Then the officials went together to Daniel’s house and found him praying and asking for God’s help. **So they went straight to the king and reminded him about his law.** Did you not sign a law that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions?”

“Yes,” the king replied, “that decision stands; it is an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked.”

Daniel had been elevated and so the officials, his haters, manipulated the king. Don’t get mad when others get elevated. Rejoice with others, be happy for them. If you can’t celebrate the promotion of somebody else, how is God ever going to promote you?

13 - Then they told the king, **“That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day.”**

- What we have here is a couple of Spiritual Informants - Secret Service / Secret Servants
- They are snitching on Daniel so they can elevate themselves - Daniel had they favor they wanted
  - When you have something people want -some people will try and destroy you to get it.
  - Some will rejoice and some will plot
  - Favor isn't fair and makes people mad

14 - Hearing this, the king was deeply troubled, and he tried to think of a way to save Daniel. He spent the rest of the day looking for a way to get Daniel out of this predicament.

- Daniels Favor caused the King to try and Help Him
- “What can I do to help Daniel” – the king wanted to keep the blessing of God in his place

15 - In the evening the men went together to the king and said, "Your Majesty, you know that according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, no law that the king signs can be changed."

16 - So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, "**May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you.**"

- We can live in such a way that causes unbelievers to have FAITH in our God

17 - A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel. Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night fasting. He refused his usual entertainment and couldn't sleep at all that night.

19 - Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions' den. When he got there, he called out in anguish, "**Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?**"

21 - Daniel answered, "Long live the king! **My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me**, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty."

23 - The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God.

24 - Then the king gave orders to arrest the men who had maliciously accused Daniel. He had them thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. **The lions leaped on them and tore them apart before they even hit the floor of the den.**

You need to be careful who you are connected to or you could end up in a lion's den situation.

25 - Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: "**Peace and prosperity to you!**

26 - **I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel.**

For he is the living God, and he will endure forever.

His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end. He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on 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 the Persian.

- Prospered = Enjoyed Success / Happy Advance – God's plan is for you to prosper

### Promises For The Persecuted

1. The Godly Will Face Persecution - Paul
  - a. 2 Tim 3:12 (nasb) - *Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*
  - b. "All" is not a throwaway word in this verse.

- c. Paul means it. Everyone who publicly lives as a committed Christian will face some kind of resistance from the world. But God will take of his people.
- d. Bottom line is "haters are going to hate."
  - i. The Devils Gets Mad When You:
    1. Take New Ground
    2. Say "No" to Sin
    3. Get Right w/ God
    4. Get Water Baptized
    5. Get Filled w/ The Spirit – full of power for God and enemy to darkness
    6. Walk In The Spirt - Fruit & Gifts
    7. Get People Saved - He Hates It!
- e. The minute you get serious about your faith - the devil gets serious about stopping you.
  - i. *The world never burned or crucified a "casual Christian"*
  - ii. Casual Christianity Leads To Casualties  
Serious Christians cause serious problems for the devil
  - iii. *Leonard Ravenhill - If you're not being persecuted you're doing something wrong.*
- f. 4 Godly Responses When Being Persecuted
  - i. Bless Them - *"bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you"* (Luke 6:28).
  - ii. Pray for Them - *"pray for those who persecute you"* (Matt 5:44).
  - iii. Forgive Them - *"Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing"* (Luke 23:34)
  - iv. Love Them - *"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"* (Matt. 5:44).

## 2. God Has Strength For The Persecuted – Paul

Let God silence your enemies.

- a. The church at Corinth was putting pressure on Paul that God wasn't working with him because of the persecution He was facing and the hardships he was enduring. But he says this about it:
  - i. 2 Cor 12:10 (nasb)- *Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.*
- b. Psalm 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.
- c. Psalm 46:4-5 - *A river brings joy to the city of our God, the sacred home of the Most High. God dwells in that city; it cannot be destroyed. From the very break of day, God will protect it.*
- d. Nehemiah 8:10b - *Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!"*

## 3. The Lord Will Fight For You - Moses

- a. Remember the Red Sea Story - Pharaoh and His armies were pressing in on the Egyptians and they began to Panic
- b. Exodus 14:13-14 - *But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm."*  
God gave Moses some natural instructions (lift the staff) that brought on supernatural results (parting the Red Sea and destroying the enemies that pursued them).

- i. *My Persecution Story - I was wrongly accused and God told me to be still and know that I am God.*



This made me feel like the problem was a giant in my life and I felt very small and insignificant and I was very fearful – I’m not a liar or a thief. I felt righteously indignant towards that offense which was false. The devil got stupid and I was delivered from it – all truth rises to the surface. God will deliver and vindicate you.



But then I realized it’s the “problem” who had to fight with my God. God is bigger than any of your problems. God will eliminate anything that is bothering you.

#### 4. There's A Blessing For The Persecuted - Jesus

Don’t believe that you are going thru something for no reason. God is taking you thru the fire, the refiner’s fire, and what will come out of it is a closeness to God and a blessing.

- a. **Matthew 5:10-12** - **God blesses those who are persecuted** *for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. **Be happy about it! Be very glad!** For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.*

Pastor: I pray that God will silence every lion that’s been roaring at you, everything that’s barking at you and telling you that you can’t do this or can’t do that, I’m here to tell you today that God will make a way where there seems to be no way. And I pray that every hater that’s been hating on you, God will silence by his mighty power. I pray that God will save your children. I pray that God will fill them with the Holy Spirit, I pray that every member of your family will get saved, I pray that everybody gets baptized by the Holy Spirit. I pray that God begins to bless you mightily for His Name’s sake as you serve him. And I pray that every situation that seems to be going wrong, God will supernaturally begin to turn it around for His glory and your increase and prosperity. In the name of Jesus. Amen

But it all starts with a relationship, it’s not a religion but a relationship. If you don’t have a relationship with God, than God is not fighting for you. He’s fighting that you get saved but He’s not fighting your battles. You have to make the decision to line yourself up with God so that God can do something incredible in your life. Stop trying to fight everything in your own hand and let God swat your enemies. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Get close to Jesus and right with Jesus.