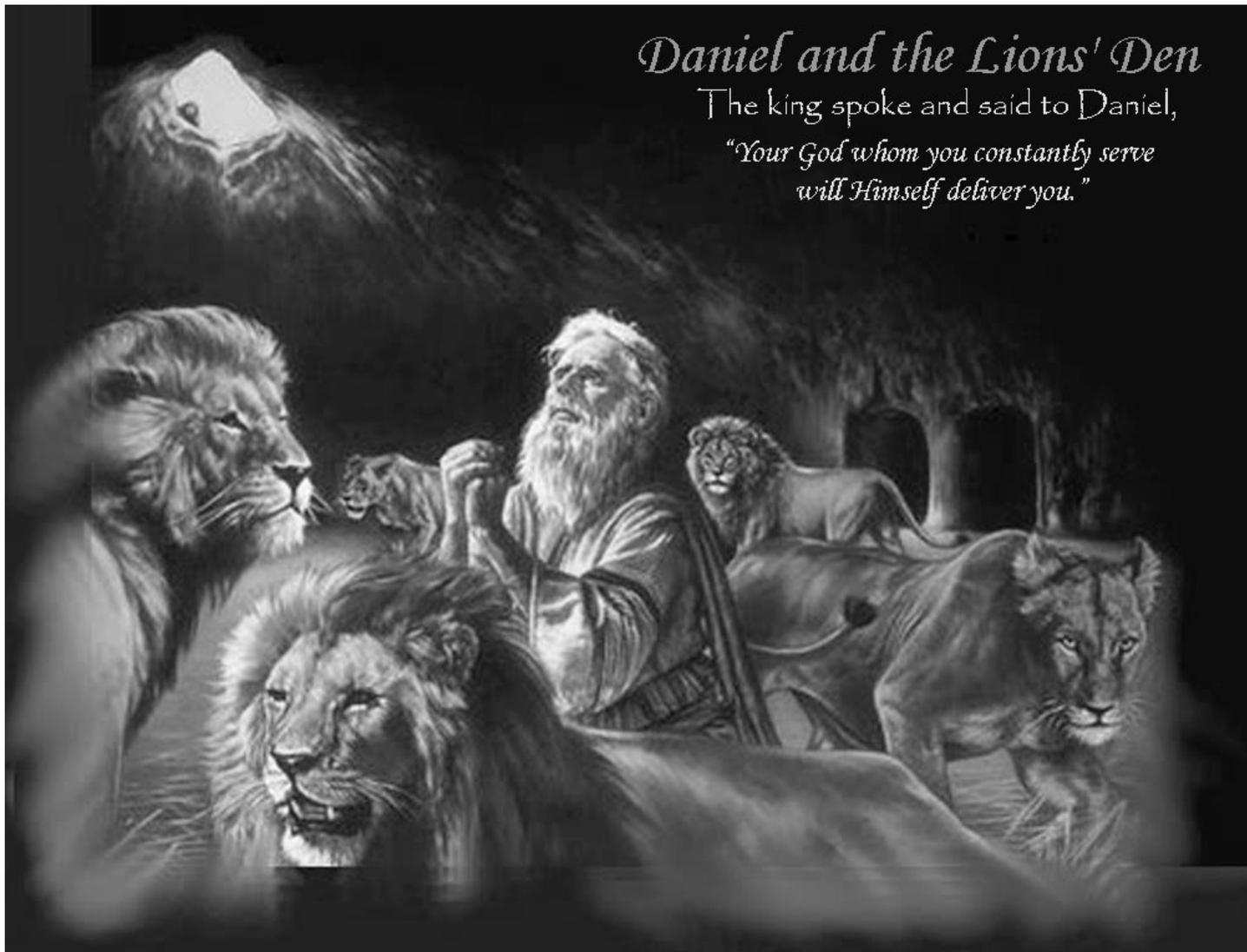


Daniel and the Lions' Den

The king spoke and said to Daniel,
"Your God whom you constantly serve
will Himself deliver you."



Even non-church goers have heard of Daniel and the Lions' Den...though they probably do not believe it is true.
But how many Christians know the story behind Daniel and the Lion's den?

Chapter 6: **LESSONS FROM DANIEL**

- 1 The historical record of God promoting Jews in Exile; through all the nations in the Times of the Gentiles.
- 2 Anti-Semitism and hatred of Christians (John 15)
- 3 Wisdom of Civil Disobedience
- 4 God is able to deliver believers through the most adverse of circumstances
- 5 It is a prophetic message of the divine deliverance of the faithful Jews in the Tribulation being delivered from the *beast of Revelation 13*.

“He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth,
Who has *also* delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

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1st The historical record of God promoting Jews in Exile; through all the nations in the Times of the Gentiles.

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¹ It seemed good to Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, that they would be in charge of the whole kingdom,

it seemed good

This indicates that this was not Darius's plan, but was presented to him and Darius determined it was good. We do not know who formulated this administration but it is not out of the question that it was Daniel himself.

Satrap

This is a transliteration of the Greek. from the Septuagint and means “guardian” “watcher”. This plan reorganized the conquered Babylonian empire into 120 states or provinces, each headed by a satrap or governor. the appointment of 120 executives is not without pertinence; Babylon has fallen, Medo-Persia is the 2nd Kingdom in the times of the Gentiles the time has begun...days allotted to flesh...120 Genesis 6:2; time of the Gentiles is well under way by now.

² and over them three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), that these satraps might be accountable to them, and that the king might not suffer loss.

Only by the providence of God

is Daniel...a slave from Judah,... in exile,... not a Medo or Persian,

not even a Babylonian is now placed over the 120 heads of State.

God is able to promote in hostile environments

What is important about this is that in the Tribulation not all Jews, not all Gentile believers will be executed, not even all those who refuse the mark of the Beast. God can protect and promote while in exile.

The high reputation of Daniel had carried over from the fall of Babylon when they came into the city that night in 539 bc – Daniel was set apart and brought before King Darius who was taken by the old man's wisdom.

that the king might not suffer loss.

Economic loss.

This is an important historical note: Jeremiah 29:7

⁷ Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare.'

All through history where the Jews have gone in diaspora, that nation has prospered, including Babylon, Med-Persia, U.S., Germany, Belgium etc.

This is not by chance, but because of their faithfulness to Jeremiah 29:7 and God's Faithfulness to them, because of God's plan for the Jewish people. Countries all around present day Israel desire to destroy all Jews but also to take their land that they have turned into one of the most prosperous nations in world. **This is no accident.**

God promotes in exile and under hostile environment

3 then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.

Then

this Aramaic word encompasses so much, starting at the time when the Meds entered and took Babylon to the establishment of a ruling government, and how Daniel, time and time again distinguished himself before Darius; at financial meetings, economic meetings, military meetings and social meetings.

because he possessed an extraordinary spirit,

Here is the secret to Daniel's success.

This is a reference to supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit igniting all the teaching of the Old Testament that Daniel had in his soul which gave him wisdom in dealing with unbelievers as well as believers. This is something that every one of you can possess. *An extraordinary spirit, filled with Word of God and empowered by Holy Spirit.*

and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.

Daniel is in his 80s but wise in his thinking and strong in his character.

Daniel did this through the foreign and hostile environment of Babylon and now of the Medo-Persian empire. He did not try to make everyone believe in his God but he orchestrated an environment where people had the freedom to believe nor not believe.

Here is a picture of Jews being prospered throughout the Time of the Gentiles. Many are shocked when they discover how many of the most successful people throughout the times of the Gentiles are Jews: scientist, doctors, bankers, musicians and scholars! In spite of the Hamans, the Hitlers, the Stalins; in spite of the hatred from around the world through history, the Jews have always seemed to prosper. God has a plan for the Jews and that plan includes centuries in exile.

L E S S O N	2nd Anti-Semitism and hatred of Christian (John 15)	2
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Rise of jealousy and hatred and conspiracy against Daniel

4 then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or *evidence of corruption*, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was *to be found* in him.

1	Daniel possessed an extraordinary Spirit—God the Holy Spirit
2	<p>he was faithful</p> <p>Faithfulness is one of the Divine Nine of the</p> <p>Fruits of the HOLY SPIRIT.</p> <p>Faithful to the LORD,</p> <p>Faithful to Walking in HOLY SPIRIT ;</p> <p>Faithful in the study of the Word of God;</p> <p>Faithful to Love as JESUS CHRIST Loves,</p> <p>therefore faithful in the world.</p> <p>And note this is declared not by other believers but by unbelievers, his enemies.</p>

Being Faithful is a foreshadow of those faithful Jews in the Tribulation.

Jealousy and hatred against Daniel:

1st because he was a foreigner, a Jew, taken as hostage.

2nd his promotion above other Meade or Persians.....

Now we come to historical impact. We are seeing in the TRIALS OF JESUS CHRIST how the religious Sanhedrin, who both hated and were jealous of this Jesus, set out to find whatever they could to sentence Jesus to death. they could find nothing so they tried to bribe false witnesses against Jesus.

And here with Daniel they searched and spied to find fault.

Religious, jealous people are relentless when they are out to get you!

Be it the IRS or board of deacons.

Wisdom of understanding Jealousy

1	Jealousy ranks right next to arrogance as the most destructive of Mental Attitude Sins.
2	It is more powerful than anger Proverbs 27:4. <i>⁴Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, But who can stand before jealousy?</i>
3	Jealousy destroys any happiness one may have in life, and makes one miserable no matter how prosperous you may be. These other governors have a high position in the land but they are so jealousy of Daniel they cannot enjoy their own positions, they are obsessed with getting rid of this Daniel, just as the Sanhedrin were obsessed with getting rid of this Jesus. And just as the government is obsessed with getting rid of Christians and conservatives in this land.

4	The solution to jealousy is Spiritual Love; for Spiritual Love is not jealous. This is the first negative said of Spiritual Love...not jealous. 1 Corinthians 13:4
	<p style="text-align: center;">⁴ Love is patient, love is kind <i>and</i> is not jealous; love does not brag <i>and</i> is not arrogant,</p>

Daniel was a man of integrity;

- honesty before the Lord first; and
- then seen before man.

Immorality, Idolatry was rampant in Medo-Persian Empire but this Daniel was satisfied with just following JESUS CHRIST in moral integrity.

In too few Christian homes is moral integrity sternly taught.

To walk in the Holy Spirit and be guided by the Holy Spirit moment by moment in all activities – morality in school, in conduct... In our society we have a movement against moral integrity. (Tim Tebow) (Aaron Rogers)

Use of the Law to entrap Daniel

The Sanhedrin distorted both Jewish Law and Roman Law to get Jesus crucified.

As with all Anti-Semitism they will find some reason to justify their desire to get rid of the Jews or Christians.

5 then these men said, “We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him with regard to the law of his God.”

Satanic Trap!

Use Daniel’s FAITHFULNESS TO HIS OWN GOD against him
This is one of Satan’s schemes – to use one’s devotion to his God, to his Savior against him. So they come up with an ingenious plan.

First they must flatter the arrogant king.

6 then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows: “King Darius, live forever!

Art of flattery. They have conducted secret meetings to lay out their scheme to entrap Daniel and as Hitler used the German people so the Satraps will use the arrogance of the king.

7“ All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the

satraps, the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions’

den.

They start their campaign against Daniel with flattery to the King.

Their plan begins with a lie

all have not agreed; **not Daniel.**

They knew that Daniel prayed every day, and they knew he would remain faithful to his God.

The fact that the king is to be worshipped is no accident. This is again a foreshadowing of “THE MAN OF SIN” who in the Tribulation will demand that everyone worship him, setting up the statue of himself to be worshiped. there is so much of the Tribulation to be seen and understood from the study of Daniel

2 Thessalonians 2:4

⁴ *who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.*

People,

please learn of the genius of Satan

in his schemes against Christians.

1 Haman devised a scheme to get rid of all the Jews: Esther 9:24

²⁴ For Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the adversary of all the Jews, had schemed against the Jews to destroy them and had cast

Pur, that is the lot, to disturb them and destroy them.

- 2 they schemed to take away the life of JESUS CHRIST Psalm 31:13

¹³ For I have heard the slander of many,
Terror is on every side;
While they took counsel together against me,
They schemed to take away my life.

- 3 One of the many reasons for daily study in the Word of God is to be aware of the schemes of Satan. 2 Corinthians 2:11

¹¹ so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

- 4 Satan uses his helpers in the human race and has multiple schemes to distort, pollute the local church. Ephesians 4:14

¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

- 5 Every believer is to continue to grow in the Word of God to stand against the schemes of Satan. Ephesians 6:11

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Throughout Church-history there has been multiple plans to get rid of all Jews. they are still here with us, now in their own nation.

God is Faithful

Their scheme is to use Law against Daniel.

This is exactly what the religious crowd did against JESUS CHRIST ,
they used the law to bring accusations against JESUS CHRIST;
before the Sanhedrin; then before Pilate.

**And this is what lies ahead here in America against Christianity
and the teaching of the Bible and living the Christian Way of Life.**

But remember one of the wonderful benefits
of living in the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 “against such things there is no law”

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

But when the law contradicts God’s design for the Christian life, the believer
must live according to the Word of God.

Behind the iron curtain in Russia Christians met in the woods or in barns to secretly
worship together. Throughout Church History, Christians have paid with their
lives to worship God, JESUS CHRIST and read the Bible and even to tell others of
JESUS CHRIST

God can deliver from the fiery furnace or from the Lions’ den, but if He chooses not

to deliver us through these things, He will deliver us to our eternal home.

Matthew 10:28

²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body
but are unable to kill the soul;
but rather fear Him
who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Acts 4:17-20

¹⁷ But so that it will not spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no longer to any man in this name.”

¹⁸ And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge;

²⁰ for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

Use the law against Jews and Christians

8 “Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked.”

We note here a primary difference between the golden head of the Babylonian empire and the weaker metal silver of the Medo-Persian empire. In Babylon, the King was completely sovereign. He could make a decree and change it at will. And each of the nations of the Times of the Gentiles will become weaker and weaker.

This decree is designed to get rid of one person!

Legislation should be for the protection of all citizens, not to handicap any special group. Historically laws have been passed to handicap Jews. For example, law prohibiting Jews to own land, therefore, they became entertainers, bankers, scientist and other professions. Darius was deceived. **Anytime we allow arrogance to be our thinking** we can and generally will be deceived.

9 Therefore King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.



We are not concerned here with civil disobedience or with treason. There are extreme cases where these are proper conduct.

Patrick Henry said in 1765 “if this be treason, make the most of it”

John Harington: “Treason doth never prosper; what’s the reason? For if it prosper, none dare call it treason.”

Daniel is not involved in treason, but he is involved in Civil disobedience. This is a subject that American’s (and especially Christians) need to think about, with our government making more and more laws against God given rights, like studying and teaching the Bible as it is written without it being forbidden as hate speeches. And of course the right to own guns. Therefore let’s take a look at Wisdom from Daniel on civil disobedience.

The bible is filled with illustrations of
treason {† forbidden by God †}, and
by **civil disobedience** {† honored by God †}.

1 In 1 Samuel 24:11 David assures King Saul that he has not plotted ‘treason’ against the King.

“Now, my father, see! Indeed, see the edge of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the edge of your robe and did not kill you, know and perceive that there is no evil or rebellion in my hands, and I have not sinned against you, though you are lying in wait for my life to take it.”

2	The word 'treason' is used in 2 Kings 11:14 where Queen Athaliah cries out 'Treason! Treason!' upon seeing that the priest had crowned a new king.
	<p>¹⁴ She looked and behold, the king was standing by the pillar, according to the custom, with the captains and the trumpeters beside the king; and all the people of the land rejoiced and blew trumpets. Then Athaliah tore her clothes and cried, "Treason! Treason!"</p>
3	Miriam and Aaron (Numbers 12) Because they led in the rebellion against Moses authority and God judged with leprosy.
4	To save the lives of Hebrew newborns, the midwives lied to the civil authorities for which God blessed them. Exodus 1:15-21
	<p>¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other was named Puah;</p> <p>¹⁶ and he said, "When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see <i>them</i> upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live."</p> <p>¹⁷ But the midwives ^[n]feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live.</p> <p>¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and let the boys live?"</p> <p>¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife can get to them."</p> <p>²⁰ So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and became very mighty.</p>

²¹ Because the midwives feared God, He established households for them. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive."

5 Rahab lied to Jericho's authorities to spare the lives of Joshua's spies. Her loyalty to Israel's God led to her salvation and being an example of a faith hero. Joshua

6 Peter, John and James disobeyed the Sanhedrin's command not to preach the gospel; thus they received beatings, imprisonment and martyrdom.

Daniel's wisdom begins with Daniel's faithfulness to his God

10 Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.

Daniel did not alter his customary way of life and worship.

Note the emphasis on giving THANKS TO HIS GOD. We should make it a habit to daily give THANKS TO GOD.

Philippians 4:6

⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

he entered his house

he did not go in public but in his own home, he should have had the freedom to worship in his own home as he saw fit.

We now come to the wisdom of Civil disobedience.

Daniel could have done some spiritual rationalizing If I am dead I cannot serve the Lord. I can pray in secret... I will be praying but I will stay alive. But Daniel did not coward into secrecy. He continued his routine of prayer. we know from chapter 2 that Daniel was accustomed to praying, and those who plotted against him, also knew his custom of praying. This is the reason for this law.

Do you have a routine of prayer?

Do you pray throughout the day?

Do you have some set times you pray?

If you don't, start now, pick 3 times a day and pray for 60 seconds!

Then either increase the amount of time you pray or the number of times a day you pray.

You do not need to pray to Jerusalem; pray to our Heavenly Father.

In John 17 JESUS CHRIST prayed lifting His eyes to heaven.

In the garden of Gethsemane He prayed with His face to the ground.

There is no special way to pray!

He purposefully broke the law

1	Christians are always viewed with a suspicious eye, because their declared loyalty is to a higher authority than the State. This is one of the wonders of United States of America, by its constitutional design; that one can have this respect as long as it does not counter or go against the constitution. (which Islam does)
2	There is a distinction between treason and a Christian disobeying civil authority. Treason seeks to overthrow and replace existing civil authority, while civil disobedience refuses to obey unlawful laws, or prohibitions leaving existing authority in place. It is very important to know that when there is civil disobedience the Christian must be ready to accept whatever consequences ensue from such disobedience. Whatever happens is left in the hands of the Lord whether deliverance or death.
3	When there is a law that directly opposes simple principles of Truth, the Christian must continue to worship his God. In Daniel 1 we saw that these 4 young men did not rebel against the changing of their

	<p>names nor of the educational system to which they were subjected.</p> <p>They stood their ground on the declared Word of God in reference to their diet.</p>
4	<p>The Christian is to respect established authority even though he may not agree with all that government does. (1:9; 3:16) You will recall that even when he challenged the law, Daniel and SHADRACH, MESHACH and ABED-NEGO Respected the authority and person of Nebuchadnezzar.</p>
5	<p>But when the Law violates the mandates given to Christian, he must then make a decision to be guided by the Holy Spirit to serve and worship his God and Savior or and in some cases the Holy Spirit may guide him to shrink back from his service at that time.</p> <p>Not form a riot or a movement against the government, not organize a rebellion but simply worship his God, serve the Lord and faithfully leave the consequences up to the sovereign decision of God.</p>
6	<p>John Locke allowed for resistance to civil authorities when they usurp man's inalienable rights to the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.</p>
7	<p>On the other side of this issue in the pagan world, advocates of strict obedience to the state is found in those who argue that the state is the sovereign above all else, including above individuals.</p>

8 But he must be ready to bear the consequences: death or incarceration. SHADRACH, MESHACH and ABED-NEGO willingly accepted being thrown in the fiery furnace; Daniel into the lions' den. Peter and John stood before the Sanhedrin for healing. Peter was thrown in prison. Remember that if God chooses to deliver the believer through the disaster He can and will; or God can simply promote the believer home.

Schemers against Daniel

11 Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God.

by agreement

They had many secret meetings to plot their scheme and then to spy on this **Daniel**, just as they did against JESUS CHRIST.

With **Samson**, they spied to catch him in an immoral act, in Galatians they spied to see who was circumcised.

With **Jesus** they spied to catch Him healing on the Sabbath,.

And now they spy to catch **Daniel** praying. Instead of taking care of the affairs of running the government they are spying on **Daniel**.

“God delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth,
Who has *also* delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

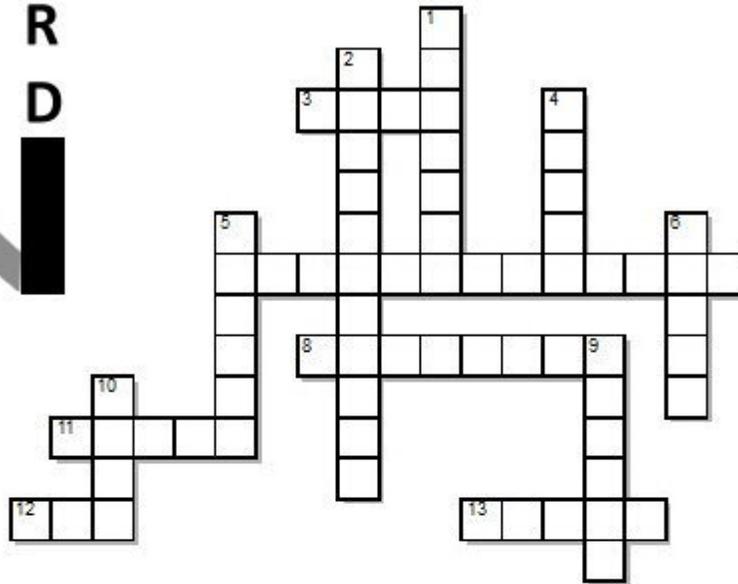
KING OF KINGS
LORD OF LORDS

W CROSS

R
D

King of Kings
Lord of Lords

W
CROSS
R
D



Questions taken from the First Six Sermons on The Book of Daniel Series

by Pastor Herman H. Mattox

ACROSS

- 3 In 606 b.c. the _____ were deported from Jerusalem to Babylon
- 7 Nabopolassar conquered the city of Babylon, and was the father of _____
- 8 God uses _____ believers
- 11 In 760 b.c. Nineveh responded to the gospel preached by _____
- 12 One Who Controls History is _____
- 13 To protect from another flood, the people built the Tower of _____

DOWN

- 1 Northern Kingdom of Israel destroyed by _____ (A Nation)
- 2 The Light of the World is the gospel of _____ (two words)
- 4 For the state to determine what is right or wrong The _____ must be eliminated from state institutions
- 5 Since the time of the Exodus Satan has tried to destroy this race, _____
- 6 Daniel's wisdom was that he lived by _____
- 9 Hananiah (Shadrach) & Mishael (Meshach) & Azariah (Abed-nego) & _____ (Belteshazzar) were faithful to God.
- 10 In the beginning was the _____ and it was with God and it was God