DANIEL THE RISE AND FALL OF KINGDOMS A LOOK AT GODS' MAN IN A KINGDOM

1. DANIEL IN THE COURT OF DARIUS

- A. DANIEL 6:1-3 (NIV) IT PLEASED DARIUS TO APPOINT 120 SATRAPS TO RULE THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM, ²WITH THREE ADMINISTRATORS OVER THEM, ONE OF WHOM WAS DANIEL. THE SATRAPS WERE MADE ACCOUNTABLE TO THEM SO THAT THE KING MIGHT NOT SUFFER LOSS. ³NOW 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.
 - I. 120 SATRAPS ['achashdarpan (Chaldee), *akh-ash-dar-pan*'; corresponding to Hebrew 323 ('achashdarpan) :- prince.] TO RULE THROUGHOUT
 - II. 120 = 3 TIMES 40
 - (1) THREE DENOTES DIVINE PERFECTION
 - (2) FORTY IS PROBATION
 - (A) APPLIED TO PERSONS, IT POINTS TO A DIVINELY APPOINTED NUMBER DURING A PERIOD OF WAITING
 - (I) Acts 1:15 (NIV) In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)
 - III. DO YOU FIND THIS TYPE OF STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT AS INTERESTING AS I DO?



(1) FIRST LETS LOOK AT THE STATUE TO SEE THE FIRST VERY INTERESTING THING

- (I) THIS PERIOD OF TIME OF THE KINGDOMS IS ILLUSTRATED BY WHAT?
 - 1) TWO ARMS
 - A) TWO KINGDOMS EXISTING SIDE BY SIDE.
- (2) THE GOVERNMENT WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT IS JUST ONE OF THESE ARMS:
- (3) RULER
- (A) DARIUS -
 - (I) **1 Peter 2:13-17 (NIV)** Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority,
- (B) THREE ADMINISTRATORS
 - (I) 1 PETER 2:¹⁴or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. ¹⁶Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. ¹⁷Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.
- (4) 120 PRINCES
 - (A) Today we would call them Bureaucrats that got their positions by

PRIVILEGE

- IV. .ONE OF WHOM WAS DANIEL.
 - (1) Lets look at Daniel Gods' man
 - (A) HE IS NOW IN HIS 80S
 - (B) HE WAS BORN OF A ROYAL FAMILY BECAME A SLAVE
 - Daniel 1:3 (NIV) Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility-
 - (C) MADE A RULER
 - Daniel 2:48 (NIV) Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men.
 - (D) FORGOTTEN BY THOSE IN AUTHORITY
 - (I) Daniel 5:10-11 (NIV) The queen, hearing the voices of the king and his nobles, came into the banquet hall. "O king, live forever!" she said. "Don't be alarmed! Don't look so pale! ¹¹There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods. King Nebuchadnezzar your father--your father the king, I say--appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners.
 - (2) AFTER ALL THE UPS AND DOWNS, WHAT TYPE OF PERSON HAS DANIEL BECOME (A) ³NOW 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
- V. WHAT IS IT THAT THE KING WANTS?(1) THAT THE KING MIGHT NOT SUFFER LOSS.
- 2. Envy and malice of natural man against a man of God
 - A. DANIEL 6: ⁴At 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. ⁵Finally 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."
 - I. ENVY WHAT THE WORD SAYS ABOUT IT.
 - (1) **Proverbs 3:31 (NIV)** Do not envy a violent man or choose any of his ways,
 - (2) **Romans 13:13 (NIV)** Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.
 - II. CONDUCT
 - (1) **Romans 14:8 (NIV)** If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.
 - (2) **2** Corinthians. 5:15 (NIV) And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

(A) IS THIS THE TYPE OF CONDUCT THAT WE FIND IN DANIEL?

(I) THEY COULD FIND NO CORRUPTION IN HIM, BECAUSE HE WAS TRUSTWORTHY AND NEITHER CORRUPT NOR NEGLIGENT

- III. WHAT SHOULD PEOPLE SAY ABOUT US?
 - (1) "WE WILL NEVER FIND ANY BASIS FOR CHARGES AGAINST THIS MAN DANIEL UNLESS IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE LAW OF HIS GOD."
- 3. The decree against prayer
 - A. DANIEL 6:⁶SO THE ADMINISTRATORS AND THE SATRAPS WENT AS A GROUP TO THE KING AND SAID: "O KING DARIUS, LIVE FOREVER! ⁷THE 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 MAN DURING THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS, EXCEPT TO YOU, O KING, SHALL BE THROWN INTO THE LIONS' DEN. ⁸NOW, O KING, ISSUE THE DECREE AND PUT IT IN WRITING SO THAT IT CANNOT BE ALTERED--IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE MEDES AND PERSIANS, WHICH CANNOT BE REPEALED." ⁹SO KING DARIUS PUT THE DECREE IN WRITING.
 - I. TRUTH HOW IMPORTANT IS IT?
 - (1) ⁷The Royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed
 - (A) IS THIS TRUTH?
 - (I) **Psalm 119:160 (NIV)** All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.
 - (II) John 17:17 (NIV) Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.
 - 1) IS THIS TRUTH?
 - A) ⁷THE ROYAL ADMINISTRATORS
 - (2) O KING DARIUS, LIVE FOREVER
 - (A) DO YOU THINK THESE MEN FELT THIS WAY ABOUT THE KING?
 - (I) 1 Thes. 2:4-6 (NIV) On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. ⁵You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed--God is our witness. ⁶We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you,
 - (II) Jude 1:16 (NIV) These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.
 - 1) WHAT WERE THESE MEN DOING WITH THESE WORDS?
 - II. WOULD THE EDICT CAUSE YOU TO HAVE A PROBLEM?
 - (1) EDICT AND ENFORCE THE DECREE THAT ANYONE WHO PRAYS TO ANY GOD OR MAN DURING THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS, EXCEPT TO YOU, O KING, SHALL BE THROWN INTO THE LIONS' DEN
 - (A) WHO WILL BE BOTHERED BY THIS EDICT?
 - (I) **2 Thessalonians. 2:1-12 (NIV)** Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, ²not to become easily unsettled or alarmed

by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. ³Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? ⁶And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. ⁹The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, ¹⁰and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ¹² and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

- (B) WHO WILL NOT?
 - (I) Matthew 24:5 (NIV) For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.
 - (ii) Matthew 24:10-13 (NIV) At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹²Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.
 - (iii) Matthew 24:24 (NIV) For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect--if that were possible.
 - (iv) **1 Timothy. 4:1 (NIV)** The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.
 - (v) 2 Timothy. 4:3-4 (NIV) For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.
- (C) DO WE HAVE SUCH THINGS HAPPENING TODAY?
- (2) WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DECREE, WAS IT TO BRING HONOR TO THE KING?(A) DO WE SEE SUCH LAWS TODAY?
- (3) WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE EDICT?
 - (A) SHALL BE THROWN INTO THE LIONS' DEN
- 4. DANIEL DEFIES THE LAWS OF MAN, CONTINUES TO PRAY
 - A. DANIEL 6:¹⁰NOW 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.
 - I. IS THE MAN OF GOD OBLIGED TO OBEY ALL THE DECREES OF GOVERNMENT?
 - (1) Luke 11:46- (NIV) Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.
 - II. WHAT IS A MAN TO DO? IS HE TO HID HIS OBLIGATION TO GOD?
 - (1) HE WENT HOME TO HIS UPSTAIRS ROOM WHERE THE WINDOWS OPENED TOWARD JERUSALEM

- (2) THREE TIMES A DAY HE GOT DOWN ON HIS KNEES AND PRAYED, GIVING THANKS TO HIS GOD, JUST AS HE HAD DONE BEFORE
 - (A) HOW MANY TIMES DID DANIEL PRAY?
- 5. DANIEL THROWN INTO THE LIONS DEN
 - A. DANIEL6: ¹¹THEN THESE MEN WENT AS A GROUP AND FOUND DANIEL PRAYING AND ASKING GOD FOR HELP. ¹²SO 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 MAN EXCEPT TO YOU, O KING, WOULD BE THROWN INTO THE LIONS' DEN?" THE KING ANSWERED, "THE DECREE STANDS--IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE MEDES AND PERSIANS, WHICH CANNOT BE REPEALED." ¹³THEN THEY SAID TO THE KING, "DANIEL, WHO IS ONE OF THE EXILES FROM JUDAH, PAYS NO ATTENTION TO YOU, O KING, OR TO THE DECREE YOU PUT IN WRITING. HE STILL PRAYS THREE TIMES A DAY." ¹⁴WHEN THE KING HEARD THIS, HE WAS GREATLY DISTRESSED; HE WAS DETERMINED TO RESCUE DANIEL AND MADE EVERY EFFORT UNTIL SUNDOWN TO SAVE HIM. ¹⁵THEN THE MEN WENT AS A GROUP TO THE KING AND SAID TO HIM, "REMEMBER, O KING, THAT ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF THE MEDES AND PERSIANS NO DECREE OR EDICT THAT THE KING ISSUES CAN BE CHANGED." ¹⁶SO 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!" ¹⁷A 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.
 - I. LET US JUST SEE WHAT THESE VERSES TELL US?
 - (1) ¹¹Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying
 - (A) 2 Chronicles 6:21 (NIV) Hear the supplications of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place; and when you hear, forgive.
 - (2) and asking God for Help.
 - (3) ^{12}SO they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree:
 - (A) "DID YOU NOT PUBLISH A DECREE THAT DURING THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS ANYONE WHO PRAYS TO ANY GOD OR MAN EXCEPT TO YOU, O KING, WOULD BE THROWN INTO THE LIONS' DEN?"
 - (4) THE KING ANSWERED, "THE DECREE STANDS--IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE MEDES AND PERSIANS, WHICH CANNOT BE REPEALED."
 - (5) ¹³THEN THEY SAID TO THE KING,
 - (A) "DANIEL, WHO IS ONE OF THE EXILES FROM JUDAH, PAYS NO ATTENTION TO YOU, O KING, OR TO THE DECREE YOU PUT IN WRITING.
 - (I) HE STILL PRAYS THREE TIMES A DAY."
 - (6) ¹⁴When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed;
 - (7) HE WAS DETERMINED TO RESCUE DANIEL
 - (8) AND MADE EVERY EFFORT UNTIL SUNDOWN TO SAVE HIM.
 - (9) $^{\rm 15}{\rm Then}$ the men went as a group to the king and said to him,
 - (A) "REMEMBER, O KING, THAT ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF THE MEDES AND

PERSIANS NO DECREE OR EDICT THAT THE KING ISSUES CAN BE CHANGED.

- (10) 16 SO THE KING GAVE THE ORDER,
- (11) AND THEY BROUGHT DANIEL AND THREW HIM INTO THE LIONS' DEN
 - (A) **Revelation 13:2 (NIV)** The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.
 - (I) The mouth like that of a lion, I liken unto the lions' den
- (12) THE KING SAID TO DANIEL, "MAY YOUR GOD, WHOM YOU SERVE CONTINUALLY, RESCUE YOU!"
- (13) ¹⁷A STONE WAS BROUGHT AND PLACED OVER THE MOUTH OF THE DEN,
- (14) **AND THE KING SEALED IT WITH HIS OWN SIGNET RING** AND WITH
- (15) THE RINGS OF HIS NOBLES,
- (16) SO THAT DANIEL'S SITUATION MIGHT NOT BE CHANGED
- 6. The miraculous preservation of Gods' man in the lions den.
 - A. DANIEL6: ¹⁸Then 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. ¹⁹At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰When 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?" ²¹Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! ²²My 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, O king." ²³The 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.
 - I. ¹⁸THEN THE KING RETURNED TO HIS PALACE
 - II. AND SPENT THE NIGHT WITHOUT EATING AND WITHOUT ANY ENTERTAINMENT BEING BROUGHT TO HIM. AND HE COULD NOT SLEEP. ¹⁹
 - III. AT THE FIRST LIGHT OF DAWN,
 - IV. THE KING GOT UP AND HURRIED TO THE LIONS' DEN.
 - V. ²⁰When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice,
 - (1) "DANIEL, SERVANT OF THE LIVING GOD, HAS YOUR GOD, WHOM YOU SERVE CONTINUALLY, BEEN ABLE TO RESCUE YOU FROM THE LIONS?"
 - VI. ²¹DANIEL ANSWERED, "O KING, LIVE FOREVER!
 - VII. ²²MY GOD SENT HIS ANGEL,
 - VIII. AND HE SHUT THE MOUTHS OF THE LIONS.
 - (1) THEY HAVE NOT HURT ME,
 - IX. BECAUSE I WAS FOUND INNOCENT IN HIS SIGHT.
 - X. NOR HAVE I EVER DONE ANY WRONG BEFORE YOU, O KING."
 - XI. ²³The King was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the Den
 - XII. . AND WHEN DANIEL WAS LIFTED FROM THE DEN,
 - (1) NO WOUND WAS FOUND ON HIM,
 - (A) BECAUSE HE HAD TRUSTED IN HIS GOD.

- 7. THE ACCUSED OF DANIEL
 - A. DANIEL 7:²⁴At 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.
 - I. WHO WILL AVENGE THE MAN OF GOD?
 - (1) $7:^{24}$ AT THE KING'S COMMAND,
 - (A) THE MEN WHO HAD FALSELY ACCUSED DANIEL WERE BROUGHT IN AND THROWN INTO THE LIONS' DEN
 - II. WHAT IS THE COST THAT MAN WILL ONE DAY PAY?
 - (1), ALONG WITH THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN.
 - III. IS THIS A NATURAL EVENT?
 - (1) AND BEFORE THEY REACHED THE FLOOR OF THE DEN, THE LIONS OVERPOWERED THEM AND CRUSHED ALL THEIR BONES.
- 8. The decree of Darius the prof to the nations.
 - A. DANIEL 6:²⁵Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land: "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. ²⁷He 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." ²⁸So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.
 - I. WHO IS THIS LETTER TO.
 - (1) TO ALL THE PEOPLES, NATIONS AND MEN OF EVERY LANGUAGE THROUGHOUT THE LAND:
 - II. WHAT DOES HE WANT THE PEOPLE TO KNOW?
 - (1) "MAY YOU PROSPER GREATLY
 - (A) A NEW DAY IS COMING.
 - (I) **Rev. 11:15 (NIV)** The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."
 - (2) I ISSUE A DECREE THAT IN EVERY PART OF MY KINGDOM PEOPLE MUST FEAR AND REVERENCE THE GOD OF DANIEL.
 - (A) "For he is the living God and he endures forever;
 - (B) HIS KINGDOM WILL NOT BE DESTROYED,
 - (C) HIS DOMINION WILL NEVER END.
 - (D) 27 HE RESCUES AND HE SAVES;
 - (E) HE PERFORMS SIGNS AND WONDERS IN THE HEAVENS
 - (F) AND ON THE EARTH.
 - (G) HE HAS RESCUED DANIEL FROM THE POWER OF THE LIONS."

- (I) SO HERE WE HAVE IT!
 - 1) WHO DOES DANIEL REPRESENT?
 - A) THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND THE TRUE BELIEVER THAT GOD WILL SEE THROUGH THIS TIME.
 - 2) THE LION
 - A) THE GREAT BEAST
- (H) $^{28}\mbox{So}$ Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian
 - (I) THE REIGN OF JESUS THE CHRIST, AND GOD OUR FATHER
 - 1) ONE REIGN IN HEAVEN, THE OTHER ON EARTH.