



COUNTER CULTURE SERIES

Part 6: False Witnesses

Scripture: Daniel 6:1-28 (ESV) p743

Background: As prophesied, Babylon has fallen to the Medo-Persian Empire, ruled by Cyrus the Great. God's servant Daniel is preserved through the change of empires.

1. (v1-9) The Plot to Trap Daniel

- Darius saw that Daniel did an excellent job in his role, and promoted him in an even higher role over the Kingdom, which caused _____ among the other ministers.
- The other ministers conspire to entrap Daniel, but could find no fault in his work: he was honest and faithful in his service to the Empire. The only thing that they could try and use against Daniel was his faithfulness to _____.
- They decide to petition the King for an injunction: a _____ day period where no one can worship or petition any god or man, except for the King: or else they would be killed.

The King agrees and authorizes the injunction.

2. (v10-15) Daniel Remains Faithful

- When Daniel learns about the injunction, he did what he always does: Praised God.
 - Daniel fully understood the earthly consequences of remaining faithful to God. The other ministers accused Daniel before the King of his alleged violations of the injunction.
 - The King was troubled: he did not want to carry out the sentence against Daniel. The King spent the night seeking to somehow deliver Daniel from this situation.
 - The ministers reminded the King that the Medo-Persian Law is set: the authority and confidence in the King would be in question if he went against the Medo-Persian Law.
 - The King was left with no choice: he had to allow for the sentence against Daniel to be carried out, and Daniel was taken to the Lion's Den.
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3. (v16-28) Daniel in the Lion's Den

- Per the King's order, Daniel was cast into the Lion's Den. The King said to Daniel that he hoped Daniel's God would Deliver him from the situation.
- A stone was placed over the mouth of the den, to ensure Daniel could not escape.

Matthew 26 - Jesus is buried in the tomb, which was sealed by a large stone and guarded to prevent any claims the body of Christ was resurrected.

They then left Daniel trapped with the Lions until the next day...

- The King was again troubled for Daniel throughout the night, he did not sleep or eat! At daybreak, the stone was rolled away...

Daniel was preserved in the den among the lions!

Daniel was found better rested in the Lion's Den than even the King

- When the King asked if Daniel's God had delivered him, Daniel attributed his preservation from certain death to God! Daniel was taken out of the den unharmed!
- The King responds by subjecting the ministers and their families to the same fate as Daniel; they were all immediately consumed by the lions in the den.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why should we not bear false witness? (Read Exodus 20:16) p61

After reading this scripture, how should we act when faced with persecution?

In this scripture, who does Daniel represent (as a "type")?

Closing Prayer Topic:

X. Amen.