

DANIEL'S CONVICTION TO PRAY THREE TIMES A DAY
OPEN YOUR WINDOW WIDE AND WORSHIP LIKE DANIEL
From 1-10-2016

Daniel 6:1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

Daniel 6:2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Daniel 6:3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Daniel 6:4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Daniel 6:5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

Daniel 6:6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

Daniel 6:7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Daniel 6:9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Daniel 6:11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Daniel 6:12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Daniel 6:13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

Daniel 6:14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

Daniel 6:15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

Daniel 6:16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

Daniel 6:17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

Daniel 6:18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of music brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

Daniel 6:19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

Daniel 6:20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

Daniel 6:21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

Daniel 6:22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Daniel 6:23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

Daniel 6:24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

Daniel 6:25 Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

Daniel 6:26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

Daniel 6:27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Daniel 6:28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

STORY AND BACKGROUND:

1. Daniel was taken to Babylon into captivity with Jehoiachin (cf. II Kings 24:12-14) He was elevated to a position of authority in the kingdom because of his character,

Even as a young man he stood for his convictions and refused to eat the unclean meat and drink of the polluted wine from the Babylonian court (Cf. [Dan 1:8](#) But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.)

2. Daniel continues through all the kings of Babylon and even remains in authority under the leadership of the Median Persian Empires
3. Darius being the new King of Babylon liked Daniel and wanted to set him up as the Chief President of all the princes rulers and governors:

Daniel 6:1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

Daniel 6:2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Daniel 6:3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Note, that in heaven, God made 3 chief angels to rule over all the other angels. 2 remained loyal and one rebelled, now we find in the days of Daniel, on earth, three chief presidents - 2 were evil one was good... So I have always surmised that the Godly crowd in this life will always represent a minority and not a majority. That says a lot for this idea that the vote of the majority makes something right. What is right is what God says is right, and it does not depend on a vote!

God's people have always been a minority, and so it is today:

4. The other two presidents got together and racked their brains out on how to destroy Daniel:

Daniel 6:4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

CONSIDER: How hard would it be for our enemies to find something against us?

Daniel 6:5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

5. Daniel's enemies realized that the only thing out of the norm about Daniel was his piety and faith in his God..

WE ARE A PECULIAR PEOPLE

6. SO THEY LIE TO KING DARIUS (who was 62 years old at this time) *(the perfect age because I too am 62...)*

Daniel 6:6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

NOTE VERSE IN VERSE 7 HOW THEY PRESENTED THIS MATTER:

Daniel 6:7*****All***** the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the councilors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

7. Daniel when he found out about the decree we read

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, **he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.**

SOME INTERESTING QUESTIONS WE SHOULD ASK

- I. **WHY DID OPEN HIS WINDOW AND PRAY THREE TIMES A DAY?**
- II. **NOW THE QUESTION WE NEED TO ASK OURSELVES IS WHY DID DANIEL MAKE THIS PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF PRAYER BY OPENING HIS WINDOW? DOESN'T IT SAY PRAY IN YOUR CLOSET ALONE? Could he not have prayed privately, in secret?**
- III. **WHAT IS THE APPLICATION OF THIS HISTORICAL ACCOUNT TO US? HOW DO WE FOLLOW DANIEL'S EXAMPLE IN OUR LIVES**

DANIEL'S EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

I. **WHY DID DANIEL OPEN HIS WINDOW AND PRAY THREE TIMES A DAY?**

I have a book in my library entitled "To Be a Jew".. on Page 160 it says the Orthodox Jewish tradition of three prayer services a day: Comes from the three offering made each day in the temple:

The morning Shachrit service is said to correspond to the Morning Shachrit offering

The Daily afternoon offering was called the Minha service

On high days and special days there was a Musaf offering, EVENING offering

The tradition of prayer among the Jews as a service of the heart extends to a period of time long before the Temple was destroyed

Page 161 the tradition of the three daily services is ascribed also to the Patriarchs:

Morning:	Abraham:	Early morning took Issac to be offered up
Afternoon;	Issac:	Issac was praying when he went out to Meditate and Rebecca met him
Evening:	Jacob	Jacob wrestled with God all night

The practice of praying three times a day showed the biblical teaching that the Lord was not just something that God's people were to include once a week in their lives - morning noon and night prayers showed that he is as important as breakfast lunch and dinner..

Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Deuteronomy 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Deuteronomy 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Deuteronomy 6:8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

Deuteronomy 6:9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

A truly a devout Jew was taught that in order to obey this command to make the Lord an important part of their life, they were to stop and pray three times a day,

So If the Jews lived in a community of Jews, they were to conduct a prayer service three times a day publicly.

Also, in Jerusalem, little prayer groups of devout Jews congregated for the three prayer services even today, many congregate at the old temple site.... or the old Western Wall Some call it the wailing wall because many through the years have wept and mourned the loss of the old temple. The western wall is the only thing left of the temple site.

So Daniel's three daily prayers were not something that he did that were out of the ordinary for a devout Jew: Daniel couldn't be there in Jerusalem ,so,**he Opened his window toward Jerusalem and prayed:** Even though the temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel still prayed towards Jerusalem.

So Daniel prayed three times a day because it was the established form of worship from the days of Solomon's temple.. and orthodox Jews till this day still follow this pattern of prayer..

II. Why did Daniel make a public exhibition of prayer By Opening His Window So All Could See Him Praying?

Doesn't the Bible say that we are to enter into our closet when we pray?

Matthew 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Matthew 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Devout Jews who were able to get to the temple were encouraged to attend the three public worship services: These were public times of prayer. There is a time to pray in secret and there is a time to pray in public..

Acts 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. **Note:** this was in the New Testament yet they still followed the Old Testament pattern of praying three times a day.

The reason **Daniel opened his window** to pray was because these three daily prayer times were not just Daniel's private devotions, they were to be in place of the three public services that were supposed to be taking place at Jerusalem. So Daniel was not able to attend a public service but his heart was with God's people and he did not want to not forsake the assembling of himself together.

Me and my family have gone away on vacation and there was no church we could get to for Prayer meeting night. So we would gather together read some Scripture together and pray together instead. This is kind of what Daniel was doing.

Daniel was obeying this verse:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Daniel was having daily worship services as usual, and he wasn't going to stop having them just because of some pagan dictate or law:

This is why he prayed facing Jerusalem, this is why he opened his windows, this is why he didn't stop,

If Daniel would have stopped it would have been a declaration that the children of Israel should stop. If he stopped it would have been a declaration that Darius was to be more honored than his God!

When you can't make it to Church do you have Church in the home? When you decide to do something else on Sunday instead of going to church you are saying that something else is more important than Jesus. You say no I am not saying that... than may I ask why did Daniel just not open the window that day and set aside prayer for a bit? Daniel was not in Jerusalem but he still publicly worshipped as was his custom!

Years ago we went to the only Baptist Church in the area when we were on vacation. When we went there, in the preacher's sermon, the preacher was criticizing the King James Bible and said some things that were totally off the wall. That evening instead of going back there we held our own evening service. We sang, we read the Bible, and prayed, why not. This was what Daniel was doing - he was having a public prayer service. We opened our Window towards Jerusalem so to speak.

Daniel was obeying the command to worship, and he believed by conviction that it was so important, that he was willing to die in the lions den rather than disobey the command of God to love him and put Him first.. and not be ashamed of the Lord God of Israel.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deuteronomy 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Putting God first, is our main duty, the greatest of all commands, the supreme, mandate for every Christian, How do we show we put God first?

We show it by our sacrifices. Daniel showed it by opening his window towards Jerusalem and praying three times a day.

In Geneses the Lord showed Adam and Eve how they could draw near to Him through a proper sacrifice,

Cain was rejected because he brought the wrong sacrifice.

Able offered a more excellent sacrifice.

Abraham was blessed because he was willing to not even spare his own son - he was willing to offer him up as a sacrifice.

Moses was commanded to bring the Children of Israel out of Egypt and it was the passover lamb that was sacrificed that brought them out.....

What is the sacrifice that we offer today.... It has already been offered through Jesus, the Lamb of God.....

When we get together, we preach that he sacrificed his life for us....

Now we open up our window each Sunday, and each time that we have scheduled services and say look to Jesus and His sacrifice for us.

OPEN UP YOUR WINDOW TOWARDS JERUSALEM AND WORSHIP THE KING!

Daniel opened his windows and publicly worshipped towards Jerusalem...

We come here publicly to proclaim our faith in Christ.

By coming here you show that Jesus is number one in your life.....

How else are you going to do that?

What other sacrifice are you going to make?

I Corinthians 11:20 When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

I Corinthians 11:21 For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.

I Corinthians 11:22 What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

I Corinthians 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

I Corinthians 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

I Corinthians 11:25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

I Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

I Corinthians 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

I Corinthians 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of [that] cup.

I Corinthians 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

What is the main goal of communion?

I Corinthians 11:33 Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.

Why did Daniel pray three times a day?

It was because this is when the sacrifice took place.... three sacrifices a day. When we partake of the Lord's supper we remember back to His sacrifice for us.

WHY DO WE GET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY:

It is because this is when we open our window and look back to the Sacrifice of Jesus..... and his resurrection!

So we have three service on this day.....

Morning.....

Noon.....

Night.....

Oh preacher you say it is too much of a sacrifice to ask me to come to three services every Sunday.....

That is too much of sacrifice.

HOW MUCH OF A SACRIFICE WAS IT FOR THE JEWS TO WALK TO THE TEMPLE THREE TIMES A DAY?

You say that was the Old Testament.

Why then did Peter and John go to the temple at the hour of prayer in the New Testament book of Acts?

Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

If Jesus sacrificed for us can we not sacrifice for him?

III. What is the application for us?

HOW DO WE OPEN OUR WINDOWS AND PRAY TOWARDS JERUSALEM?

I wonder if Daniel was excited about praying three times that day the decree was signed.....

I wonder if it was all that great having a service all by yourself all those days.....

People find the craziest reasons why they can't come to Church....

It is a Sacrifice. But is it such a great sacrifice for such a great God and Saviour?

If the government outlawed coming to Church would you still come?

Would we have the boldness to open our windows and meet together?

Daniel opening his windows was not an example of why we should make a public spectacle of our prayer life...

Daniel's opening of his windows was how we should make a public spectacle of our Church life..... People should know we are a Church going people.....

MORNING NOON AND NIGHT ON SUNDAY: NOTICE A NEW TRADITION EMERGING IN AMERICA.. THERE IS A TRADITION OF ABANDONING ANYTHING THAT WOULD CAUSE AN INCONVENIENCE ON THE PART OF GOD'S PEOPLE..

Too much to come three times in a one day to church? That is sad but that seems the trend today in the contemporary churches of America.

How important was God to Daniel? Enough to be willing to go to the Lion's den to continue in public worship...

HOW IMPORTANT IS GOD TO YOU:

1. Do you love him, are you saved? Have you received Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?
2. How do you show you love him?
John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Baptism
Church attendance MORNING, NOON, AND NIGHT
Sacrifices you make, look at Abraham & Issac

3. Is he in your heart?
What you love to do you will sacrifice for:

Love music... practiced,
Love hunting
Love food... sacrifice go to a good restaurant. There seems no end to the amount of restaurants that are opening in our area. Even when the economy is down people will sacrifice for what they love and what they love to do..

Brother G.D. Nair was visiting years ago from India. We told him this area was known for its good skiing. He never saw a Ski slope so we took him to look at the people skiing. As we watched the people coming down the slope he laughed.. and couldn't believe people thought that was fun, to suffer the cold and slide down a hill in the snow. Yet they will spend time and money to do what someone from India thinks is crazy! Others love it.. will sacrifice time and money to do what someone else thinks is a waste of time.

So it is with prayer and Church attendance. If you love the Lord it is not a waste of time. No one will stop you.. just like no one could stop Daniel from praying three times a day to show his love

for his God! This was not just something he preferred to do, he would even be willing to die rather than abandon his responsibility to honor God and Worship Him!

This is a new year..

I wonder how many of you need to commit to spend time reading your Bible and praying every day..

I wonder how many of you need to be more faithful in your church attendance and service for the Lord.

People say .. nowhere in the Bible do you read you have Sunday School and Evening Service. No nowhere do you read that, instead I read they meet daily..

Acts 5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

The Jews met three times a day! Is it too much to devote 4-5 hours a week to public worship? Daniel risked death in the lions den for this sacred duty of worship..

Consider the application of this message to your life and open your window towards Jerusalem and worship the King of Kings in your personal life and devotions.