

Connection to Daniel 6:10-24

When believers trust God in all circumstances, we can count on Him to be glorified in ways that will prompt others to worship Him.

Introduction/Opening

People who pay attention to the world around them can see the Lord's work close at hand. They observe the wonder of His wisdom and power when they take a moment to see a flower in bloom, the flash of lightning, or the smile of a baby in a crib.

King Darius observed what the Lord had done with Daniel. The Lord had protected Daniel from certain death in the lion's den, and the king could see it for himself. What he observed affected him deeply. His eye-witness account prompted him to make a series of affirmations that glorified the Lord.

We don't know if the king became a follower of the Lord. However, we know that seeing the Lord at work can make a monumental difference to anyone. We can be transformed into people who worship the Lord and make affirmations that glorify Him.

Outline

- 1. An affirmation regarding God's kingdom (v. 26)
 - a. The king affirmed the durability of God's kingdom. Darius lived in a world in which kingdoms would rise and fall. Even though they may have lasted for several generations, eventually they would meet their doom. But not God's kingdom. Darius came to see that God's kingdom would never end. For that reason, He deserved to be worshiped.
 - b. Believers affirm the durability of God's kingdom. Jesus taught us to pray as citizens of a kingdom that would never end (Matthew 6:10). His kingdom has been established, and yet it's still on the way. When we affirm the certainty that God's kingdom will prevail for eternity, worshiping Him becomes our only reasonable response.

- 2. An affirmation regarding God's power (v. 27)
 - a. The king affirmed the reality of God's power. The miracle that took place in the lion's den showed Darius the reach of God's hand (6:10-24). Darius witnessed for himself that God had the power to deliver and rescue His servants. Furthermore, He demonstrated His power with signs and wonders. Therefore, God alone deserved to be worshiped.
 - b. Believers affirm the reality of God's power. The miracles of Jesus underscore the reach of His power. His miracles continue to abound. The miracle of a changed life serves to drive home the reality that our Lord can do anything. Nothing is too difficult for Him (Matt. 19:26). When we see His power at work, we respond by worshiping Him.
- 3. An affirmation regarding God's servants (v. 28)
 - a. The king affirmed the credibility of God's servant. Darius had come to respect Daniel's devotion to the Lord. He saw how the Lord protected Daniel from harm. Daniel's unshakable trust in the Lord affected the king. He valued Daniel's spiritual depth and gave him the opportunity to point others to the Lord for years to come.
 - b. People notice the credibility of believers as we serve the Lord. Watching Stephen as he faced death had a spiritual effect on Paul (Acts 22:20). Our neighbors, family members, work associates, colleagues at school, and others in our circle of relationships study us. Our walk with Him can point them to Christ.

Conclusion

King Darius glorified the Lord with his affirmations. They reflected his sincere desire to call attention to God in a way that glorified Him. And it happened as a result of seeing God at work in the life of one of His choice servants.

If we belong to the Lord, then we will want to glorify Him too. As we behold Him at work in our lives and in the world around us, we will be eager to worship Him sincerely and serve Him consistently. Our eagerness may have been diminished by neglect or circumstances. Turn to Him and ask Him to refresh your heart with the wonder of His presence.

You may have noticed a believer whose walk with the Lord has made you understand that you need to trust Jesus. Surrender to Him today by repenting and placing your faith in Him so you can be born again. New life in Him will prompt you to glorify Him with your own affirmations.

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