

## God's Design in the Hebrew Scriptures: Daniel

### Chapter 6 — The Righteous And The Roar of Trials

I. The setting, vv1-3

II. The conspiracy, vv4-15

Solomon had taught the Jews to pray to the Lord facing Jerusalem since that is where He promised to be in a special sense for them (2 Chron. 6:21, 34-39; cf. Ps. 5:7). Daniel's kneeling posture, reminiscent of Solomon's at the temple dedication, indicated his dependence on God as a suppliant. Normally the Jews stood when they prayed (cf. 1 Chron. 23:30; Neh. 9; Matt. 6:5; Mark 11:25; Luke 18:11, 13), but they kneeled (and prostrated themselves) when they felt a more urgent need (cf. 1 Kings 8:54; Ezra 9:5; Luke 22:41; Acts 7:60; 9:40; 20:36; 21:5). Praying three times a day was evidently the practice of godly Jews dating back to David if not before then (cf. Ps. 55:16-17). The fact that his window was open evidently symbolized for Daniel that his prayers were unhindered. Windows in ancient Near Eastern cities were normally small, high, and had a lattice covering, so Daniel was probably not praying with his window open to be seen by others.

Tom Constable, Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible (Galaxie Software, 2003; 2003), Da 6:10.

III. The cry of Darius, vv16-18

IV. The confidence of Daniel, vv19-23

The angel was evidently visible to Daniel, and it is comforting to think of the faithful old prophet spending the night in fellowship with the Lord during this trying ordeal (cf. comments on 3:24-27). Hebrews 11:33 alludes to this experience.

Stephen R. Miller, vol. 18, Daniel, Includes Indexes., electronic ed., Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001, c1994), 187.

V. The consequences, vv24-27

VI. The success of Daniel, vv28

#### The Times of the Gentiles

##### God's program for the world chs. 2-7

Daniel wrote 2:4b-7:28 in the Aramaic language. This literary change gives the reader a clue that this part is a distinct section of the book. The content of this section also identifies it as special. It concerns the future history of the Gentiles during "the times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24). Aramaic was the common language of the world in which Daniel lived when he wrote. It is natural that he would have recorded what concerns the world as a whole in the language of the Gentiles.

The writer constructed this section of the book in chiasmic form.

- A** A prophecy of an image concerning four Gentile nations and their end ch. 2
- B** The supernatural persecution and deliverance of Daniel's three friends ch. 3
- C** God's revelation to the Gentile king Nebuchadnezzar ch. 4
- C'** God's revelation to the Gentile king Belshazzar ch. 5
- B'** The supernatural persecution and deliverance of Daniel ch. 6
- A'** A prophecy of animals concerning four Gentile nations and their end ch. 7

"Chapters 2 and 7 explain the succession of four Gentile empires that would exert control over Jerusalem and the Jews until God's kingdom is established. Chapters 3 and 6 warned the Jews of the persecution they would face during this period and exhorted them to remain faithful to God. Chapters 4 and 5 encouraged the Jewish remnant by reminding them that a time would come when even the Gentile rulers would acknowledge that the God of Israel rules over the nations."

Tom Constable, Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible (Galaxie Software, 2003; 2003), Dan 1:21.