

## THE OPEN WINDOW

**Dan. 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 was a young man of nobility who was born during the reign of King Josiah when the Law of Moses had been rediscovered and revival spread across the people of God. During his teenage years he had been carried into exile to Babylon where he was 'spotted' and brought into the palace of the emperor Nebuchadnezzar.

You wonder why God sometimes permits bad things to happen to His people ... Well, since being taken from Jerusalem, Daniel had been through the 'wringer'! His faith in God had been severely tested, but at the same time, strengthened. ... As a young boy, he was taken into the highest household of the Babylonian kingdom (under Nebuchadnezzar) and then in the Persian kingdom (under Darius) where he was educated and trained. This education was intended, though, to 'scale away' his national and Jewish identity, even by his name from the Hebrew Daniel ('God is Judge') to Belteshazzar ('prince of Bel' ... Very subtly they were trying 'condition' this young boy's mind away from his Jewish roots.

However, Daniel had three friends, also in the king's palace ... Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego who - initially - the authorities tried to get rid of but failed. So, Daniel was very aware of the danger.

Despite all the efforts of the Babylonian tutors, the knowledge and fear of God was ingrained within Daniel. For example, when the Babylonian king dictated he must eat meat the Law of Moses said was unclean and drink wine he was not allowed to drink he had to refuse (1:8ff.). In the will of God, the problem was resolved, and Daniel went on to win the respect of Nebuchadnezzar and was chosen to interpret his dreams. This continued after Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian reign had ended and into the Medo-Persian reign of Darius.

There is a further 'twist' in chapter six when the authorities in the new regime wanted 'to sweep clean' any 'leftovers' from the Babylonian days, - of which Daniel was a part, - and they manipulated an opportunity to get rid of Daniel. They reckoned on using his devotion to Jehovah to set him up!

The situation was *this*. King Darius appointed one hundred and twenty princes to rule over the people throughout his vast empire. He also appointed three presidents with significantly more power to oversee the work. Daniel was one of those three presidents, and in fact, he was the leading president, i.e. the 'chief' president (6:2). ... It then progressed that the other two presidents and the one hundred and twenty princes searched for ways to unseat Daniel. But it was a real problem to find something incriminating to bring to Darius to accuse him. Everything he did was to

the highest standard and beyond reproach. There was not a single rule or law they could bring against him ... so, they decided to make one up!

They pressurised Darius to introduce a new law making it illegal and punishable by death for anyone to worship any other god within a certain thirty-day period. Darius, completely unawares, signed the charter and ‘handed on a plate’ the opportunity these rascals were looking for to get rid of Daniel. They wanted to catch him praying! ... I wonder how easy it would be to catch many of us praying! ... Daniel *knew* the king’s signature had sealed the new law, and he *kept on praying!*

The purpose of our study is in verse ten, **Dan. 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.* Let’s look into what was going on in that room, in the mind and heart of Daniel, as he kneeled before **the open window**.

**THE SOUNDS HE COULD HEAR** Above and beyond any earthly king, Daniel worshipped the King of kings, and he regarded the sovereignty of God over all earthly sovereigns. This was a personal relationship with God he had, as he engaged in his daily tasks in Babylon where Daniel believed the Lord had placed him. ... The Lord had formed him into what he was!

Three times every day, - without fail, regardless of how busy he was, or where he was, - he knelt before the Lord for from early childhood, his parents had taught him the importance of prayer. He had been instructed to believe God was present in every situation, and as he knelt at **the open window** he would have heard the ‘busyness’ of the people outside in the streets of Babylon, a wicked city that had no time for Jehovah ... a city that had substituted Him for idols. A city that had been built by those who had decided, *Gen. 11:4 let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name [for ourselves].*

Daniel would have heard all the noises, but they did not distract him from taking time with the Lord. He would have heard sounds he never heard in Jerusalem as a boy. In Jerusalem, as a boy, he would have heard the people going up to the temple. In the temple he would have heard the priests and the people pray. He would have heard them singing the psalms of David and Korah. He would have heard them praising the Name of God during those revival days of King Josiah. ... Now though, in a strange and foreign land, there were the many sounds coming from a thoroughly godless people and yet, it did not stop him kneeling before that **open window**, looking towards his beloved Jerusalem, and all the sounds of Babylon faded until nothing but the holiness of God was heard in that room. ... This was the quiet place

the lawmakers were trying to keep him out of, ... but they couldn't despite **the sounds he could hear**.

**THE SIGHTS HE COULD SEE** If he had kept his eyes on the inhabitants of Babylon, their *ungodliness* would have distracted him from God. What a testimony though, that he was so firmly fixed upon Jehovah ... and that was Daniel's experience as he sat praying at the window facing Jerusalem! ... Daniel would not allow Babylon to come between him and God, and he knew no matter how difficult Babylon became, God was with him, and God could overrule the plans of men! ... From the open window, **the sounds he could hear, the sights he could see** ...

**THE SITUATION HE WAS IN** Beyond any shadow of a doubt, he could *feel* the hostility towards him ... He knew what his enemies were planning! They were looking for opportunities to 'catch him' so they could get rid of him and bring in *their laws, their programmes, and more of their people*. ... Isn't it interesting Daniel didn't lock himself in his house shut his windows, pull the blinds down, close Babylon out and become a 'hermit'. ... Was Daniel the only one left true to Jehovah? ... No, he was not ... there were others for God always keeps a remnant. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Amos, Micah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi all spoke about a remnant of God's people. ... And Daniel was not alone for he had God with him, and Meshech, Shadrach and Abednego and many others who were faithful. Through the pagan exploits of Babylon, the devil reckoned he could get rid of God's people ... but *he can no more get rid of God's people than he can get rid of God!!*

And despite **the sounds he could hear, the sights he could see, the situation he was in** ... three times every day Daniel knelt at **the open window** ...

**THE STEADFASTNESS OF HIS FAITH** Yes, he prayed, because he did not consider defeat inevitable ... and notice how when he prayed, he did not blame God for the predicament he was in. No, he kept on doing what he had always done, ... he <sup>10</sup> *gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime*. ... As he looked through **the open window** into Heaven he saw a God who was interested in him and his people. He saw God in control, and what he saw gave him confidence to contend earnestly for the faith. He *thanked* God for everything God had allowed in his life. His surroundings could not keep him away from either prayer or praise! **The sounds he could hear, the sights he could see, the situation he was in** ... and *still the steadfastness of his faith*.

What was there to give thanks to God for? Many things! ... He believed in the power of prayer, and how he was persuaded God would outshine the enemy ... And

Daniel also trusted in the Word of God and there he found the enemy can only do so much, - only what God allows him to do, - and he knew *God always wins!*

Turn to chapter nine, <sup>9:1</sup> In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; <sup>2</sup> In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem ... Jeremiah ... seventy years ... where did he read about that? ... **Jer. 25:11** And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years ... And after the seventy years, what? Is it all over for Jerusalem, or what is going to happen? The Lord of hosts gave Daniel through the prophet Jeremiah the answer, <sup>12</sup> And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations. ... That is hard to believe, but this was *prophecy*, read on, **Jer. 29:10** For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. ... And this was the great hope Daniel was clinging to ... that after seventy (*literal*) years, God would bring His people out of Babylon and back to Jerusalem ... And Daniel was counting the days!

You can see where the Word of God is taking us ... Daniel trusted in God, and he knew what God had already promised He would bring to pass, and having read Jeremiah, Daniel also would have known how the Lord had previously spoken, **Jer. 6:16** Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.

Daniel walked in the old paths ... and never strayed from them! Being elevated to one of the most powerful positions in the Babylonian and Medo-Persian empire did not change him ... and as Daniel knelt before **the open window** where God could see into his home and into his heart. Through that **open window**, *the light* from God's promises *beamed* in.

Daniel still had to go to the lion's den, but he did not go alone ... and he did not stay there for God delivered him. He believed God was working 'behind the scenes', and He would see His purposes achieved through His faithful people ... May God encourage us to be like Daniel! ...

Dare to be a Daniel,  
Dare to stand alone!  
Dare to have a purpose firm!  
Dare to make it known.