

DANIEL 6 DANIEL - AN OVERCOMER

INTRODUCTION

Daniel's greatest test of faith came to him as an old man, probably in his 70s or 80s. He had run a great race, but the final hurdle was the highest. Daniel cleared this hurdle. He finished well. Daniel was made the third ranking ruler of the Babylonian Empire in its final hour. His reputation as an administrator was such that he was retained by the incoming Medo-Persian administration. The new empire was organised into 120 satrapies, or regions. Above these satrapies were placed 3 Presidents, who reported to the King. Daniel became one of these Presidents. The King planned to raise him to the position of second in command. Other officials attempted to block this promotion.

THE TRAP

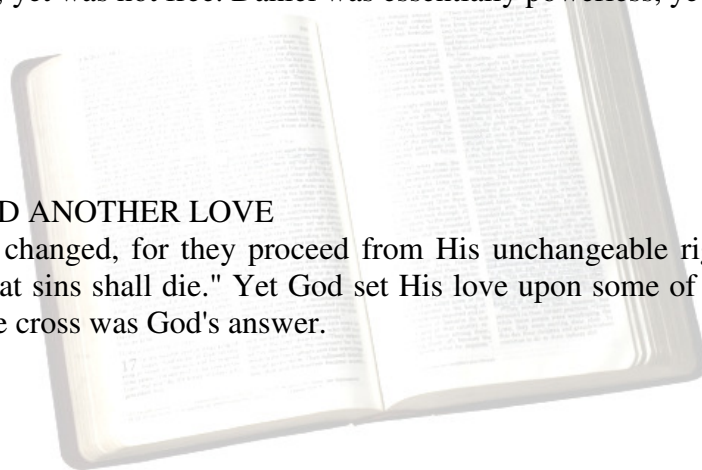
Because Medo-Persian kings were believed to be divine, their decrees could not be altered. Daniel's enemies tried to use this custom against him.

THE IRONY

Darius had vast power, yet was not free. Daniel was essentially powerless, yet he was free.

ANOTHER LAW AND ANOTHER LOVE

God's laws cannot be changed, for they proceed from His unchangeable righteous character. His law says, "The soul that sins shall die." Yet God set His love upon some of the sons of men. How could he save them? he cross was God's answer.



LESSONS FROM DANIEL'S PRAYER LIFE AS RECORDED IN CHAPTER 6.

1. Daniel prayed "toward Jerusalem," that is, with his mind, emotions and will focused on the power and promises of God that were symbolised by that city.
2. Daniel's prayer life was characterised by discipline and regularity.
3. Daniel's prayers were balanced - including thanksgiving as well as petition.

If we would have our lives count for eternity, we must begin on our knees.