In His Hands #6 “He Saves! He Saved.” Daniel 6

**Intro**: My mother is the youngest of six daughters; her mother died before I was born. Most major holidays were at her widower

 father’s home… big two-story in the country… Describe 4th of July; East Eggs; Christmas! (crowds, laughter, dominoes…)

* One Christmas all that changed… had to be quiet in the house and No Upstairs; could not eat in living room; four of the families went home to spend the night… Had something to do with Granddad’s new wife, … *Mildred*.

**t/s** – *There was more going on than a 7 year old could notice*.

**Story of Daniel and Lion’s Den**. Some have known this since you were a child… ***More Going On than a seven year old can notice***!

**Daniel 6**

*He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.*

*Daniel is in Exile, but God is on His Throne*

*In spite of present circumstances, God is in control.*

***Sovereignty*** = God knows what He is doing; and He is doing it!

* Humbles the Proud; and Encourages the Humble.

Structure of First Half of Book is Chiastic…

1 Introduction; 2 & 7; 4 & 5; 3 and 6 – Fiery Furnace & Lion’s Den.

 3 – Refusal to ***Participate*** in Idolatrous worship

 6 – Refusal to ***Refrain*** from proper, biblical worship

Next week is going to get a little complicated. Simple Today.

We will Read the story with comments on practical lessons; then, celebrate the Theological Point… What We Learn about God!

Remember, the Babylonians are Judged and Darius is in Charge. (5:31)

**Daniel 6: 1-3** *Extraordinary spirit* – ambiguous in Aramaic & English

 Daniel’s spirit or God’s Spirit within Daniel… YES!

* Do you Set yourself Apart?!

**6:4** Motivated by Professional Jealousy… Searching for Accusation.

 (later also racial and religious prejudice)

 No ground of Accusation == Above Reproach church leaders

 **ILL** – Dale Ralph Davis, “***Chapter 6 Begins with a miracle***

 ***… a squeaky clean politician***!”

**6:5** Notice “*the Law of His God*”

**6:6-9** No prayer ***TO*** any other god; maybe ***THROUGH*** anyone else;

 An Exertion of Political Control over the new Kingdom!

* **The Law of the Medes and Persian Vs. the Law of God.**

Not only an ancient Problem… Today, IMB Meetings…

… Most places do not have freedom… King/Kingdom controls.

(IMB personnel; nationals suffering family, financial & physical

**6:10-11** Notice Place; Persistence and Posture of Prayer

 Daniel is claiming the OT Promises (chapter 9)

 He is Longing for Trusting in and even claiming a Future Hope!

 Vocabulary of Prayer = ***Giving Thanks and Making Petitions***

**6: 12 – 14a** King is supposed to be All-Powerful…Easily Manipulated and actually Weak almost silly.

**6:14b** Notice vocabulary of ***deliver and rescue*** –

**6: 15-22** ***Only now does Daniel speak***… What My God Did!

**6:23 – 24** The Lion’s were really Killers

 The culture was violent and ungodly, unjust!

**6: 25-28** Reign of Darius, ***Namely*** of Cyrus the Great.

* Daniel is still standing; remarkable man!

*The Meek shall inherit the Earth.*

*Humble yourself under the Mighty hand of God…*

**t/s** – Not about Daniel; Daniel’s God… even Darius knows that!

**Daniel 6: 26b-27 The Theological Lesson** (for Exiles)

Our God; the LORD is Living, not Dead; Enduring, not Past

 His Reign was not destroyed when Jerusalem fell;

 His Kingdom is Forever! (**To The End**)

**ILL** – 2 Timothy 4: 16-17

**Vs. 27** – I know **He Delivers**… because **He Delivered** Daniel.

 **Key Word**: ***Saves, Rescues, Sets Free***… 14, 16, 20, 27

 ***I know He delivers*** (present, powerful, faithful, ABLE)

 Because ***He Delivered*** Daniel!

**I Know He Saves! Because He Saved.**

***Now we can move from the Lion’s Den to the Empty Tomb.***

We know that God saves us; because He saved Him. We know that His Reign is enduring, indestructible, To the END; because even death and the grave could not hold Him.

We know that all authority has been given to Him in Heaven and on Earth; and that He is without a doubt with us to the very END; because He is not dead, He is Risen!

Why do you have confidence that our Lord Saves? --- He ***can does will*** --- He **Has**! He Is Risen. **Living; Enduring; Reigning Forever!**