

A Study of the Book of Daniel

"A Night with the Lions-part 1"

Chapter 6

Review: Daniel chapters four and five contrasted two men who made two very different decisions. After the Lord patiently gave Nebuchadnezzar many opportunities to change his life, he finally acknowledged God and gave a testimony of his conversion in chapter four. Unlike his grandfather, Belshazzar mocked and blasphemed God, using the holy sanctuary vessels to celebrate his pagan gods as recorded in chapter five. Even though he knew about his grandfather's change of heart and Daniel's holy life, Belshazzar still rejected the true God. Babylon's last night illustrated a pleasure-seeking, selfish attitude and the spirit of rebellion. Belshazzar lost his last chance to repent; he died at war with God and shackled by the heavy chains of his un-repenting sins.

The lives of these men find a parallel in the end-time issues. God's last-day remnant people have surrendered to Him and keep His Ten Commandments, while the wicked, like Belshazzar, profane the holy things of God by placing them in a pagan setting. Like Daniel, God's people are delivered, while Spiritual Babylon falls, and receives the seven last plagues and eventually hell fire.

Daniel 12:1

*"And at that time shall **Michael stand up**, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and **there shall be a time of trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and **at that time thy people shall be delivered**, every one that shall be found written in the book."*

God's judgments fell upon the proud kingdom of Babylon, because of their terrible blasphemies against the Most High. This brought about their long-prophesied doom. So, at the end-time, spiritual Babylon will also be destroyed, because of their terrible blasphemies against the God of Heaven.

Revelation 18:20-21

*"Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for **God hath avenged you on her**. And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, **Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.**"*

Introduction to Daniel Chapter 6:

In our last study, in the last two verses of Daniel chapter five, ancient Babylon fell and was conquered by the Medo-Persian army. Chapter six introduces Darius the Mede as the ruler of Medo-Persia. Darius and Cyrus were co-regents (co-rulers). While Darius led the kingdom, Cyrus continued conquering lands for the next couple of years, before coming back to rule the Persian Kingdom. The Persians became stronger than the Medians, therefore taking over leadership with Cyrus being the king. In the setting of chapter 6 Daniel is now in his early eighties.

Daniel 6:1-3.

*"It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. **Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.**"*

When Cyrus overthrew the Babylonian Empire, he and Darius immediately reorganized the

government. They set up princes over the land and three presidents to oversee the princes. Daniel was made chief of the presidents; therefore, he had charge over the other two presidents and all the princes. Perhaps he was even next in command to King Darius.

v. 2: “that the king should have no damage.” The role of the princes was to enforce the Medo-Persian policies established by the king and to collect taxes. Unless honest accounting of the tax collections was established, the collectors could embezzle and line their own pockets, damaging the financial bottom-line of the king. The presidents were to oversee all the record keeping of the treasury, but the king put Daniel in the highest position over all of them. Daniel’s reputation of unswerving integrity, loyalty, and devotion to right-doing was well known.

Key Point:

Daniel didn’t wear a cloak of religion that he could slip on and off when it proved convenient. He was no hypocrite. His commitment to God revealed a genuine life of constant devotion. Like Daniel, Christians at the end of time will need to demonstrate this kind of commitment. True religion is more than just a dry profession or mere pretense. It is more than a temporary garment. It must be the fabric of a consecrated life. Let’s look at a promise provided by God through the prophet Ezekiel, a contemporary of Daniel.

Ezekiel 36:26-27.

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.”

This promise still applies today. Paul, in the New Testament, also referred to this inner change that takes place when God is given control of our lives:

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Daniel 6:4-9

*“Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; **but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.** Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God. Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever. All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.”*

Daniel was faithful to the God of heaven. The jealous princes and other presidents of the empire couldn’t find anything to cast contempt on Daniel, as there was no “*error or fault found in him.*” His dedication to the law of his God was well known, so they decided that the only way to trap Daniel was in his faithfulness to God’s Law. Let’s look at the way the Bible describes God and

His Law.

<u>God Is</u>	<u>Attribute</u>	<u>Law Is</u>
Luke 18:19	Good	Romans 7:12
Isaiah 5:16	Holy	Romans 7:12
Deut. 32:4	Just	Romans 7:12
Matt. 5:48	Perfect	Psalms 19:7
1 John 4:8	Love	Romans 13:10
Ex. 9:27	Righteous	Psalms 19:9
Deut. 32:4	Truth	Psalms 119:142
1 Jn. 3:3	Pure	Psalms 19:8
John 4:24	Spiritual	Romans 7:14
Mal. 3:6	Unchangeable	Matt. 5:18
Gen. 21:33	Eternal	Psalms 111:7,8

As we can see, the Bible describes God and His Law (the Ten Commandments) in the same way! The Ten Commandments are a transcript of God's character. Therefore, you can't separate God from His Law. So Now, let's look at God's Law, His 10 Commandments, to see which of the Commandments he would have broken by putting King Darius before God.

Exodus 20:1-17

1 "And God spake all these words, saying,

2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

First Commandment

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Second Commandment

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Third Commandment

7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Fourth Commandment

8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Fifth Commandment

12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Sixth Commandment

13 Thou shalt not kill.

Seventh Commandment

14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Eighth Commandment

15 Thou shalt not steal.

Ninth Commandment

16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Tenth Commandment

17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."

We have probably read through the Ten Commandments. Maybe we have even memorized them, but do we know what the principles of God’s law are? Since the Ten Commandments are a transcript of God’s character, let’s go through them and point out the principles. Verses 1 and 2, tell us that God gave us the Ten Commandments, not Moses. In fact, in Exodus 31:18 the Bible plainly states that the Ten Commandments were written with the finger of God.

Exodus 31:18

*“And **he gave** unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, **two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.**”*

Key Point:

The first four Commandments deal with our relationship with God.

<u>Verse</u>	<u>Commandment</u>	<u>Principle</u>
Vs. 3	1 st Commandment	Loyalty
Vs. 4-6	2 nd Commandment	True Worship
Vs. 7	3 rd Commandment	Reverence
Vs. 8-11	4 th Commandment	Holy Time

The last six Commandments deal with our relationship to each other.

Vs. 12	5 th Commandment	Respect for Authority (Parental, Spiritual, & Civil)
Vs. 13	6 th Commandment	Respect for Life
Vs. 14	7 th Commandment	Purity of Heart
Vs. 15	8 th Commandment	Honesty
Vs. 16	9 th Commandment	Truthfulness
Vs. 17	10 th Commandment	Contentment

Now ask yourself the question, how many of these can we do away with and have perfect peace and harmony? The answer is none of them! They’re a mirror that we look at to see where we are out of harmony with God.

James 1:23-25

*“For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man **beholding his natural face in a glass:** For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. **But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**”*

The law was never intended to save you! It was given so that you would see your need of a Savior! When you see your need, you go to Jesus! He and only He can forgive and cleanse you! All we

must do is ask! Daniel remained faithful, not to be saved, but because he loved God so much that he would rather die than be unfaithful. Jesus told His disciples **“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”** John 14:15 God’s people at the end of time will have that same kind of love, commitment, and faithfulness.

Acts 5:27-29.

*“And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.**”*

In conflicts between religious duty and governmental law, we must always obey God. So, what commandments would Daniel have broken, if he followed this new law of the land, written by King Darius? To start with, the first commandment, *“Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.”* Had Daniel obeyed the king, he would have put king Darius and his law above God. He would have also broken the fourth commandment, **“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”** This new law would have affected both his daily worship of putting God first in everything he did, and his weekly Sabbath worship, recognizing God as the supreme Creator.

Daniel 6:6-9.

*“Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever. **All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.** Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, **according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.** Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.”*

The presidents and princes met with the king to set Daniel up. These leaders told King Darius a lie. They claimed that **all the presidents, governors, and princes** had met and recommended the decree commanding exclusive worship of King Darius for thirty days.

Key Point:

1. Daniel was not a part of the meeting even though these deceivers stated that “all” were present.
2. This decree involved the death sentence for disobedience.
3. The laws of the Medes and Persians couldn’t be changed.

God commanded Israel to remember Him in prayer constantly. This new law signed by King Darius was an attempt to prohibit several core values that Daniel had been raised to follow.

Deuteronomy 6:4-8

*“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And **these words,***

which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.”

Israel was to remember God in the morning, during the day and before going to bed. Israel prayed three times a day.

Psalms 55:16-17

“As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.”

Our prayer life must be constant.

Psalms 34:1

“I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

God set aside the Sabbath as a weekly reminder that He is the Creator God.

Exodus 20:8-11

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

Daniel 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.”

Key Points:

Notice Daniel’s reaction. He did not try to rationalize away obedience or change his ways. Instead, he remained true to his God. He didn’t stop his time of worship to make the king happy. This experience reminds us of Daniel’s commitment in chapter 1 to remain true and loyal to God at all costs.

1. **“Three times a day”**: Daniel had an active prayer life. It was not a hit-and-miss experience. He stayed in constant communication with God and led a consistent life of devotion. It is said that *seven days without God makes one weak!* How true it is!
2. Daniel gave thanks to God despite the circumstances. How could he do that? Daniel had faith in his God. He had seen God’s hand many times throughout his life, and he trusted God fully. Just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in chapter three, Daniel knew that God was able to deliver him. But even if He didn’t, Daniel would remain true. No doubt, Daniel had God’s peace.

Isaiah 26:3-4:

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.”

Daniel had perfect peace because his prayer life kept his mind fixed on the Lord. We can have this same relationship if we will maintain the same constant communication with God through daily prayer and Bible study.

Key Point:

Daniel's prayer life had three qualities:

1. Continual
2. Consistent
3. Filled with thankfulness

Daniel 6:11-15

*“Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, **The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.** Then answered they and said before the king, That **Daniel**, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day. Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, **That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.**”*

Key Point:

The issue in Daniel chapter three is image worship.

The issue in Daniel chapter six is worship time and the worship of a man.

Just as his enemies knew he would, Daniel demonstrated his commitment to his God. And sure enough, they used it against him. When the charge was brought to King Darius, he was very displeased for allowing himself to be tricked into making a law that would harm Daniel. Remember Nebuchadnezzar's furious reaction, to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, for not bowing down to the golden image in chapter three. In contrast, Darius was angry with himself. King Darius tried to find a way to get around enforcing the law, but he couldn't.

Daniel 6:16-18.

*“Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, **Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.** And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.”*

King Darius apparently had some faith in Daniel's God. His words express the belief that Daniel's God would protect him: *“Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.”* Daniel had a sense of the continual presence of God in his life. Even though the temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed, Daniel knew that God was in the heavenly temple. He realized that the Lord was a prayer-hearing, prayer-answering God. Notice that King Darius spent the night fasting and unable to sleep.

An Interesting Parallel:

“A stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den . . . sealed with signets” which brings to mind the tomb of Christ. This mention of a seal also foreshadows the Mark of the Beast.

Revelation 13:17

“And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

Daniel 6:19-22.

*“Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: *and* the king spake and said to Daniel, **O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?** Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. **My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.”***

Key Point:

Daniel glorified God and testified of his deliverance from the death decree. He declared that he was innocent before God and had done no wrong to the king. God honored his faithfulness by sending his angel to shut the lion's mouths.

Hebrews 7:25.

“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

Daniel not only lived a faithful life, but he also prayed continually for his people. This reminds us of how our High Priest Jesus Christ continually intercedes for us.

Spiritual Point: God sent His angel to shut the lion's mouths!

ANGELS versus LIONS: What a good analogy of the great conflict between Christ and Satan!

I Peter 5:6-8

*“**Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in the due time; having cast all your care upon him, for he cares about you. Be vigilant, watch. Your adversary the devil as a roaring lion walks about seeking whom he may devour.**”*

Key Point:

In Daniel 6:22, the Bible describes Daniel as blameless and innocent.

In Revelation 14:5, 12, God's people are considered blameless and without fault.

Revelation 14:5, 12.

Vs. 5 *“And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God”*

Vs. 12 *“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”*

At the end of time, God will have a people who, like Daniel, will be characterized by their

faithfulness to Him. Through the power of the indwelling of Christ, these people will keep the commandments of God. Because they will refuse to worship the Beast power, like Daniel they will also face persecution and the threat of death.

Whoever the Beast is, or whatever the Mark of the Beast is, the principal is clear. The end-time issue will be over loyalty. The end-time issue will involve the sacred time of worship to God and obedience to His law.

Daniel 6:23-28.

“Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God. And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den. Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.”

In the end, Daniel’s enemies were destroyed. Likewise, at the end of time the enemies of God’s people will be destroyed. When Nebuchadnezzar told his conversion story in chapter four, his acknowledgment of God’s power sounds like Darius’ new decree, telling of the wonderful power of the Lord to deliver His people. These words of King Darius, praising the living God, the God of Daniel, imply that this heathen king had also come to believe in Daniel’s God.

The events of Daniel chapter six reveal the tension that will exist during the last days between the claims of God’s holy law and the man-made laws of the land. **The stand that Daniel took in the face of death shows the end-time issue of political correctness versus a clear conscience before God.** Likewise, in the New Testament, we see the early apostles’ response to this same issue:

Acts 5:29.

“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

Remember: The wonderful experience of Daniel’s deliverance from the lions’ den is more than just a story to tell our children. As we go deeper in our study of God’s Word, we will see very significant correlations between the events in Daniel chapter six and what the Bible says will happen at the end of time.

Notice the Parallels Between Daniel chapter six and the Mark of the Beast

Comparison No. 1:

Daniel was persecuted because he chose to obey God’s law. - *Daniel 6:5*

The Remnant will be persecuted for keeping God’s law as Christ did. - *Revelation 12:17*

Comparison No. 2:

The king of Medo-Persia made a law which commanded false worship. - *Daniel 6:6-9*
The Beast Power will lead the world to make a law that commands false worship. - *Rev. 13:15*

Comparison No. 3:

The Medo-Persian law led people to worship a man – Darius the Mede. - *Daniel 6:7*
The Mark of the Beast issue brings the world to worship a man with the number 666. – Rev. 13:18

Comparison No. 4:

The penalty in Daniel 6 involved the death decree. - *Daniel 6:7*
The penalty in the Mark of the Beast issue involves the death decree. - *Revelation 13:15*

Comparison No. 5:

Daniel was saved by the intervention of God. - *Daniel 6:19-23*
God's people are delivered by the coming of Christ. - *Revelation 19:11*

Comparison No. 6:

Daniel's persecutors were thrown to the lions. - *Daniel 6:24*
Those who worship the Beast and persecute God's people will receive the seven last plagues and hell fire. - *Revelation 18:4; Revelation 16:6*

Comparison of Daniel chapters three and six with the Issues of the End Time Found in the Book of Revelation

The events of Daniel chapter three (*the golden image*) and chapter six (*the lion's den*) relate prophetically to end-time events. We have listed several comparisons above. Now let's discuss a few of these in more detail.

The Decree:

In each case, false worship was enforced by a man's decree. This false worship required disobedience to God and the breaking of one or more of His Ten Commandments. Revelation describes that God's end-time people will again be faced with required false worship and disobedience to God and breaking His commandments. All three involve the persecution of God's people and a death decree passed by a dominant world ruler.

The Issue Is Worship:

The test of faith in Daniel chapter three revolved around the second commandment (*Ex. 20:4-5: bowing down to graven images*). In Daniel chapter six, the test question centered around the first commandment (*Ex. 20:3: the exclusive worship of God*). The Mark of the Beast issue also involves worship and the breaking of one of God's commandments.

Rev. 13:14-18

*“And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: **And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**”*

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”

Who Conspired Against God’s people?

In Daniel chapter three, we saw king Nebuchadnezzar that conspired against God’s people. In chapter six, the conspirators were the king’s closest counselors who led this powerful world leader to unite in persecuting Daniel for his obedience to God. Revelation 13 and 17 reveals that these same challenges will occur at the end of time.

The Nature of the Decree:

The golden image worship in Daniel chapter three obviously broke God’s law. In chapter six, the issue was not as obvious, but it was just as serious. The decree attempted to break the relationship between Daniel and his God by making sacred time and communication to God illegal. This was a direct attack against Daniel’s personal worship and prayer life.

The Lesson for the Last Days:

In the last days, one of the Ten Commandments will again be the basic test question. Again, a dominant world leader will issue decrees to enforce false worship. To remain obedient to God, His people must endure force, intimidation, economic sanctions, and death threats, while others bow to (Spiritual) Babylon in compliance with the laws of men. **Once again, the focus will be on true worship of God versus the false worship of man.** Where will you stand?