**Daniel 6. STAND STRONG!**

**11/13/22**

**Daniel 5 Context:**

*King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them.* ***5****Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote*. ***30****That very night Belshazzar… was slain,****31****and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.* Daniel 5:1, 5, 30-31

*It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom,*

***2****with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss.****3****Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.* Daniel 6:1-3

**THREE TRUTHS TO HELP YOU STAND STRONG**

**1) When God Raises You Up, Expect PEOPLE To Tear You Down.**

***4****At this, the administrators and the satraps* ***tried to find grounds for charges****against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.****5****Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel* ***unless it has something to do with the law of his God****.”* Daniel 6:4-5

**KEY: When Living A Godly Life Should Expect Persecution.** [2 Tim 3:10-12]

***7****The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have* ***all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den.******8****Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”****9****So King Darius put the decree in writing.* Daniel 6:7-9

Daniel 4:10-12

Romans 5:6-8

**2) Kneeling To PRAY Is What Gives You The Strength To STAND.**

***10****Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day* ***he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.***Daniel 6:10

***12****…* ***“Did you not publish a decree*** *that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?”* ***The king answered, “The decree stands****—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”* Daniel 6:12

***13****Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.”****14****When the king heard this,* ***he was greatly distressed****; he was* ***determined to rescue Daniel*** *and made every effort until sundown to save him.* Daniel 6:13-14

***16****So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel,* ***“May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”****…* ***18****Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.* ***19****At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den.****20****When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”* Daniel 6:16-20

**3) When We Do What’s RIGHT, Always Trust God With The RESULTS.**

***21****Daniel answered…* ***22****My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”* ***23****The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.* Daniel 6:21-22

**POINSETTIAS**