

Daniel 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The phrase "when Daniel knew" indicates Daniel was fully aware of the decree making prayer to anyone except King Darius a capital offense, yet he deliberately continued his prayer practice. The words "went into his house" emphasize that this was his habitual practice, not a public display—Daniel prayed privately as he always had. "His windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem" reflects Solomon's prayer: when in exile, Israelites should pray toward Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:48).

"He kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God" describes Daniel's disciplined prayer life. The threefold pattern may reflect morning, afternoon, and evening prayers (Psalm 55:17). Significantly, Daniel not only prayed but "gave thanks." Even facing death, Daniel's prayers included thanksgiving, demonstrating faith that trusts God's goodness regardless of circumstances.

The phrase "as he did aforetime" is crucial—Daniel didn't begin praying when crisis came but maintained lifelong habits that sustained him in testing. This passage teaches:

1. genuine faithfulness is rooted in daily spiritual disciplines

2. believers must obey God rather than human authorities when they conflict
3. thanksgiving should characterize prayer even in dire circumstances.

Historical Context

This event occurred circa 539-538 BC, shortly after the Medo-Persian conquest of Babylon under Darius the Mede. Daniel was approximately 80-85 years old, having served in high government positions for over 65 years through regime changes. His exceptional ability prompted jealous rivals to seek his destruction, knowing they could "find no occasion nor fault" in his administrative duties (Daniel 6:4).

The decree forbidding prayer to anyone except the king for thirty days was designed specifically to trap Daniel. Ancient Near Eastern rulers often claimed divine or semi-divine status, making refusal to worship them tantamount to treason.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What daily spiritual disciplines sustain your faith during crisis—and are you practicing them consistently now, before testing comes?
2. How do you balance submission to governing authorities with obedience to God when they conflict?

Interlinear Text

עַל	כְּתֻבָּא	רְשִׁים	דַּי	יְדָעָה	וְיָדָא
Now when Daniel	H1768	knew	H1768	was signed	that the writing
H1841		H3046		H7560	H3792
into his house	H1005	and his windows	H3551	being open	H6606
				H0	in his chamber
				H5952	toward
					H5049
בָּרוּךְ וְהִי עַל בְּכָרְבָּהּ וְיָמָן יְרוּשָׁלָם					
Jerusalem	times	three	a day	H1932	he kneeled
H3390	H2166	H8532	H3118		H1289
and prayed	and gave thanks	before	his God	H3606	as
H6739	H3029	H6925	H426	H6903	H1768
					he did
בְּתִיאָה קָדְמָת מִן עַבְדָּךְ					
H5648	aforetime	H6928	H1836		
	H4481				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 55:17 (Prayer): Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Acts 5:29 (References God): Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Psalms 95:6 (Parallel theme): O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

Hebrews 13:15 (References God): By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Psalms 34:1 (Parallel theme): I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Philippians 4:6 (Prayer): Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Acts 9:40 (Prayer): But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Psalms 5:7 (Parallel theme): But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

1 Kings 8:54 (Prayer): And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

1 Kings 8:44 (Prayer): If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house that I have built for thy name: