

*I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.*

*My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. (NIV)*

*-- Jesus (John 17:14-15)*



# Taking a stand

**When to Stay  
Exactly the Same**

**Daniel 6**

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**Ancient Near East**  
**empires from 700-300 BCE**



PHRYGIA

CILICIA

Babylonian  
Empire

CYPRUS

Sidon

Tyre

MEDIA

Jerusalem

Babylon

BABYLONIA

EGYPT

PERSIS

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Medo-Persian  
Empire

# Remember Daniel?

*Daniel 6:1-2 It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, 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*

*[NKJV - because an excellent spirit was in him]*

*that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. (NIV)*

# Daniel's Exceptional Qualities

- Competence = high quality work

- Integrity

- = No Duplicity > not divided

- = No Hypocrisy > didn't pretend

- = Totally Trustworthy > Policed himself so  
didn't have to be watched or told what to  
do

- Excellent Attitude

How does one get that way?

# How will the others respond?

*Daniel 6:4 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."*

*6 So the administrators and the satraps went as a group to the king and said: "O King Darius, live forever! (NIV)*

# What are they up to?

*Daniel 6:7 The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed*

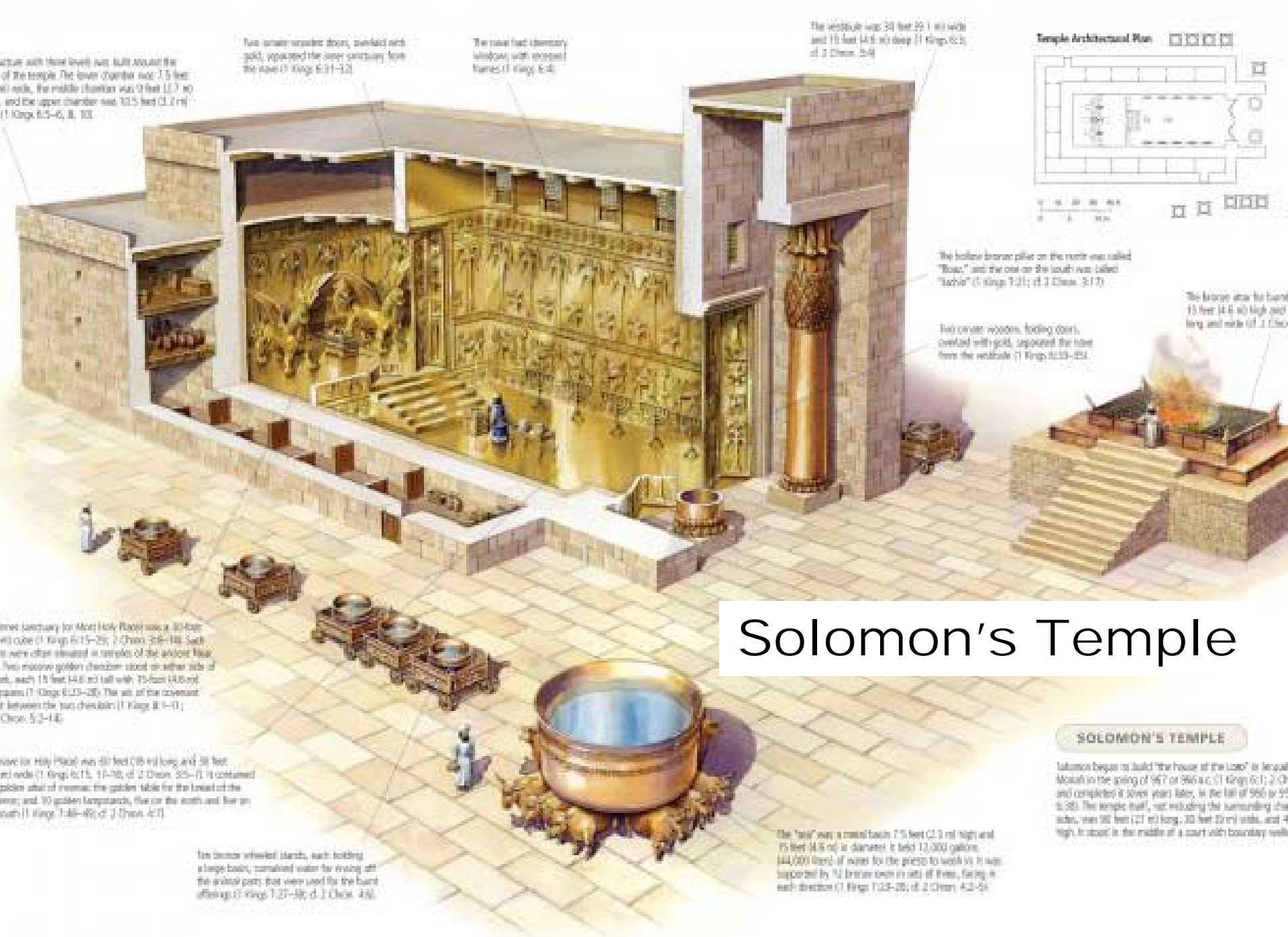
*This was a lie. Daniel wasn't consulted and didn't agree that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den.*

*8 Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered-- in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."*

*9 So King Darius put the decree in writing. (NIV)*

# Daniel would have known Solomon's Temple dedication prayer

*“... When they sin against you— for there is no one who does not sin-- and you become angry with them and give them over to the enemy, who takes them captive to a land far away or near... if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their captivity where they were taken, and pray toward the land you gave their fathers, toward the city you have chosen and toward the temple I have built for your Name; then from heaven, your dwelling place, hear their prayer and their pleas, and uphold their cause. And forgive your people, who have sinned against you. - **2 Chronicles 6:36-39***

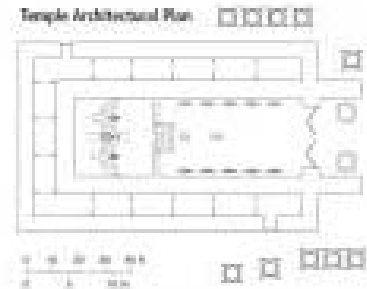


The structure with three levels was built around the floor of the temple. The lower chamber was 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, the middle chamber was 9 feet (2.7 m) wide, and the upper chamber was 10.5 feet (3.2 m) wide (1 Kings 6:3-6, 8, 10).

Two small wooden doors, overlaid with gold, separated the lower sanctuary from the nave (1 Kings 6:11-12).

The nave had clerestory windows with decorated frames (1 Kings 6:4).

The vestibule was 30 feet (9.1 m) wide and 15 feet (4.6 m) deep (1 Kings 6:3, 7; 2 Chron. 3-6).



The hollow bronze pillar on the north was called "Boaz," and the one on the south was called "Jachin" (1 Kings 7:15; 2 Chron. 3:17).

Two olive-wooden, folding doors, overlaid with gold, separated the nave from the vestibule (1 Kings 6:33-35).

The bronze altar for burnt offerings was 15 feet (4.6 m) high and 15 feet (4.6 m) long and wide (1 Kings 7:48).

The inner sanctuary for Most Holy Place was a 10-foot (3.0 m) wide cube (1 Kings 6:15-20; 2 Chron. 3:8-10). Such cubes were often situated in temples of the ancient Near East. Two massive golden cherubim stood on either side of the cube, each 10 feet (3.0 m) tall with 75-foot (22.9 m) wings (1 Kings 6:23-28). The ark of the covenant rested between the two cherubim (1 Kings 8:1-11; 2 Chron. 5:2-14).

The table for Holy Place was 60 feet (18.3 m) long and 30 feet (9.1 m) wide (1 Kings 6:15, 19-20; 2 Chron. 3:5-7). It contained golden plates of incense, the golden table for the bread of the presence, and 10 golden lampstands, five on the north and five on the south (1 Kings 7:40-49; 2 Chron. 4:7).

Ten bronze wheeled stands, each holding a large basin, contained water for washing off the animal parts that were used for the burnt offerings (1 Kings 7:27-30; 2 Chron. 4:6).

# Solomon's Temple

## SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Solomon began to build "the house of the Lord" in Jerusalem in the spring of 967 or 966 a.c. (1 Kings 6:1; 2 Chron. 3:1) and completed it seven years later, in the fall of 960 or 959 a.c. (1 Kings 6:38). The temple itself, not including the surrounding structures, was 90 feet (27 m) long, 30 feet (9 m) wide, and 45 feet (13.7 m) high. It stood in the middle of a court with boundary walls.

The "sea" was a metal basin 7.5 feet (2.3 m) high and 15 feet (4.6 m) in diameter. It held 13,000 gallons (44,000 liters) of water for the priests to wash in. It was supported by 12 bronze oxen in sets of three, facing in each direction (1 Kings 7:23-26; 2 Chron. 4:2-6).

# So, what will Daniel do?

*Daniel 6:10 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. (NIV)*

He Stayed Exactly the Same

How does one get this way?

Romans 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—*

*this is your spiritual act of worship.*

*2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

*Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV)*

# How does one get this way?

*Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

*2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (NIV)*

# It's what we knew he'd do

Dan 6:11 *Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.*

12 *So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or man except to you, O king, would be thrown into the lions' den?"*

*The king answered, "The decree stands-- in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."*

13 *Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day." (NIV)*

# You Tricked Me

Dan 6:14 *When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed;*

*he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.*

15 *Then the men went as a group to the king and said to him, "Remember, O king, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed."*

16 *So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. (NIV)*

# It's in Your God's Hands now

Dan 6:16 ...*The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"*

*17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed.*

*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. (NIV)*

# What happened?

*Dan 6:19 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?"*

*21 Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! 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, O king." (NIV)*



# What about the tricksters?

*Dan 6:23 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.*

*24 At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. (NIV)*

# God's Reputation is Elevated

*Dan 6:25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land: "May you prosper greatly!*

*26 "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.*

***"For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. 27 He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth.***

***He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."*** (NIV)

*Daniel 6:28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*

## Take Away

A Walking with God heart & habits prepare us to honor God with our lives no matter what happens.  
God is pleased to elevate His name through the courageous and faithful lives of His followers

