



# DANIEL



## Chapter 6

# Bow or be Bitten

# Transition from Babylonian Rule to Medo-Persian Rule

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Babylon was an absolute Monarchy. It is said of Nebuchadnezzar “*Whom he would, he killed, and whom he would, he kept alive*”. Dan. 5:19

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Under the Medo-Persian rule a new paradigm emerges. Absolute rule gives way to what will be known as “*the Law of the Medes and Persians*” Dan. 6:8,12,15

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Nebuchadnezzar did what he liked.

Darius, Cyrus and subsequent kings were subject to the rule of law.

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Interestingly, in chapter 2, Medo-Persia is said to be INFERIOR to Babylon, despite Medo-Persia having the rule of law.

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In the end perfect rule will not come by law, but by a Benevolent Dictatorship – The Millennial Reign of God Himself.

# Transition from Babylonian Rule to Medo-Persian Rule

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Darius (Daniel chapter 6) was a Mede, and he would rule for only 2 years.

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Under King Darius were 3 “High Officials” or Presidents (Daniel being one) and beneath them there were 120 “Satraps” or Governors.

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These High Officials were there “*so that the king might suffer no loss.*” Dan. 6:2. Checks and balances – as it were.

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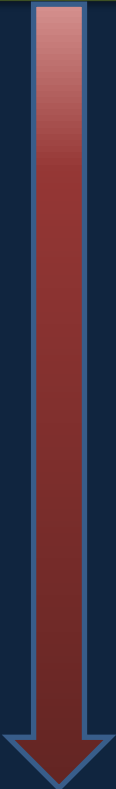
Darius would be succeeded by his sister's son Cyrus (Ezra chapter 1).

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Cyrus’ father was a Persian. Hence, Cyrus ushered in the combined empire of Medo-Persia. vs. 28

# Daniel – Aramaic Section

Chap. 2 King's Dream



Chap. 7 Daniel's Dream

Chap. 3 Bow or Burn



Chap. 6 Bow or be Bitten

Chap. 4 Nebuchadnezzar's  
Pride



Chap. 5 Belshazzar's Pride

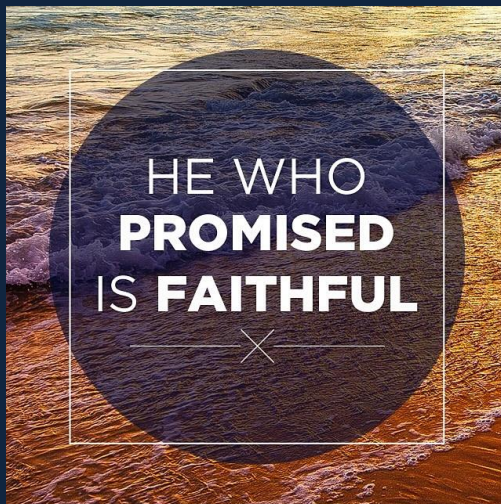
# Chapter 3 vs Chapter 6

## Chapter 3

- 3 men
- Teenagers
- Whim of a king
- Vengeful anger

## Chapter 6

- 1 man
- Octogenarian
- Rule of law
- Unintended blow back



# CHAPTER 6 – BREAK DOWN

- 1) Daniel's Excellence vs. 1-9
- 2) Daniel's Values vs. 10-11
- 3) Daniel's Vindication vs. 12-28

## DANIEL'S EXCELLENCE vs. 1-9

- Daniel had run one empire and was found, by a different king, to be fit to run the next.
- This was not a case of “governments come, and governments go, but civil servants go on forever.”
  - *“Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him.” vs. 3*

# DANIEL'S EXCELLENCE vs. 1-9

- 2 things stood out about Daniel:
  1. His Personal Ability
  2. His Personal Integrity
- Not only was he able, but he also had integrity in all he did.
- Remember, this is not the 14-year-old starting his career, but an 80-year-old with decades of history. Yet he was blameless before man and God!



# DANIEL'S EXCELLENCE vs. 1-9

- Envious contemporaries, spied on every aspect of his life and found NOTHING!
- How many of our politicians could stand up to this kind of scrutiny?
- How many of us could?
  - “...be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.” Phil. 2:15

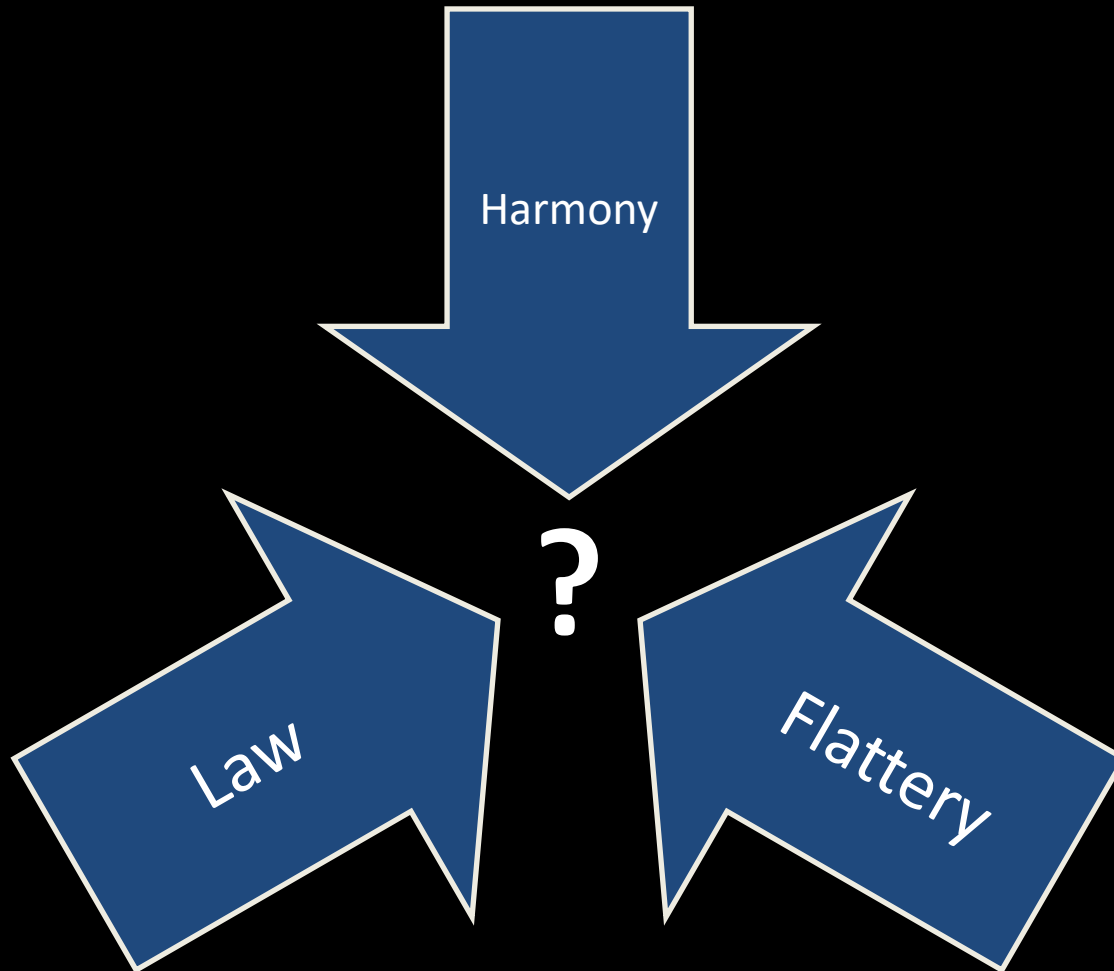
# DANIEL'S EXCELLENCE vs. 1-9

- Paul could say:
  - *“I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.”* Acts 24:16
- “A conscience is something only a Godly man can enjoy.” Anonymous
- We cannot say that we are **SINLESS**.
- But can we say that we **SIN LESS** than before?

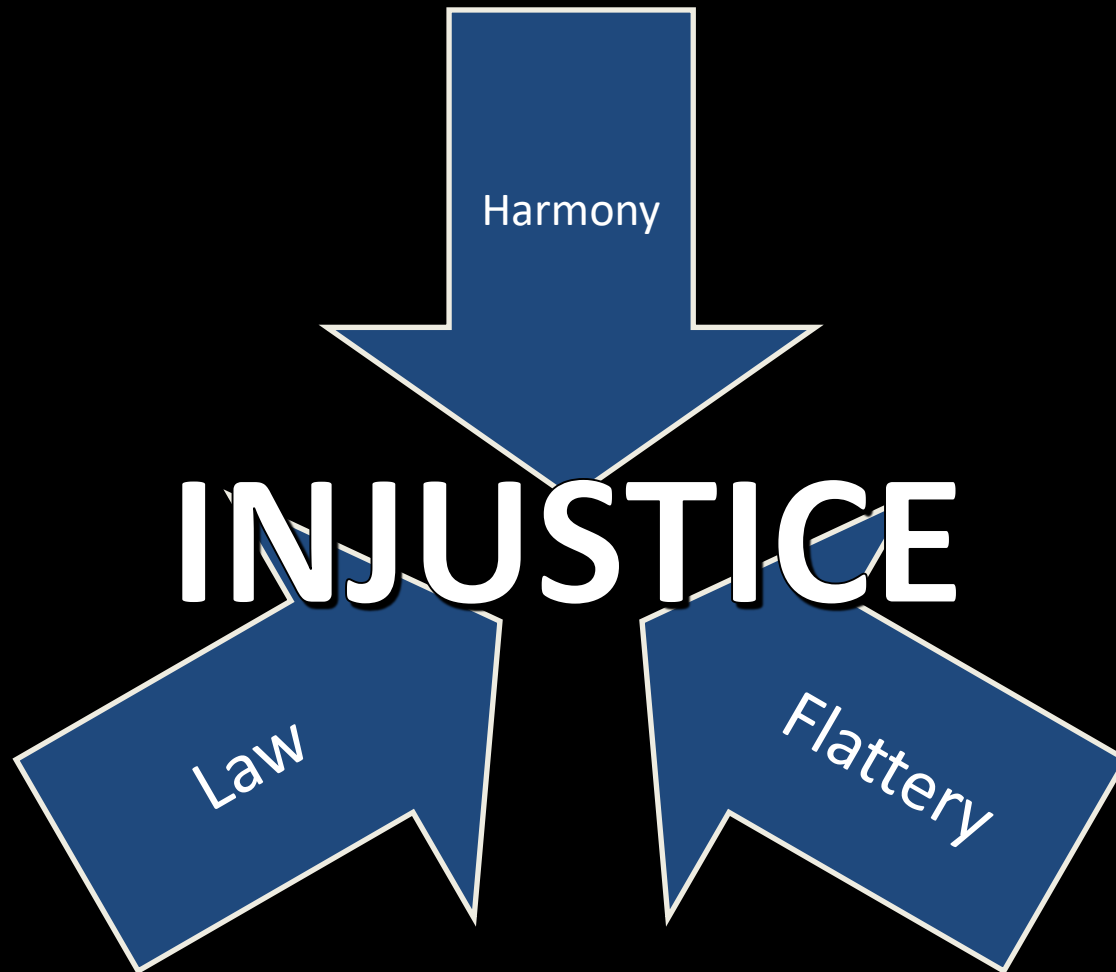
## DANIEL'S EXCELLENCE vs. 1-9

- All they could do is attack his faith in God.
  - *“We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.”* Dan. 6:5
  - So, the evil machinations of envious men began.
- In the name of harmony and by flattery a law was written which history teaches us violated Persian law.
  - *“A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.”* Prov. 29:5

# WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU MIX



# WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU MIX



# DANIEL'S EXCELLENCE

vs. 1-9

## Harmony:

Their excuse was to unify the empire.  
Noble goal that appealed to the king.



## Flattery:

Further, they flattered him by making  
him the sole target of worship.



## Law:

Finally, evoking him to enact an  
unjust law.

# DANIEL'S EXCELLENCE vs. 1-9

- Persian Law: was violated and supplanted by these 'advisors' to convict Daniel unjustly.
  - "The official policy of the Persian Empire, therefore, was to grant relative religious freedom to its subject peoples, within the limits of overall loyalty to the Persian state itself. In this respect it was a more liberal regime than before. Constitutionally, therefore, there was no reason why, in Daniel's case or for any of the Jews, the requirements of "the law of his God" should have come into conflict with "the laws of the Medes and Persians."  
Christopher Wright
  - Sound familiar?

# CHRIST'S EXCELLENCE

## Harmony:

Pilate desired to harmony with the people – *“Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.”* Mk. 15:15



## Flattery:

In a shrewd mixture of flattery and threat, *“the chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.””* Jn. 19:15



## Law:

So, the Jews used a God given law, to crucify the Son of God! *“We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.”* Jn. 19:7

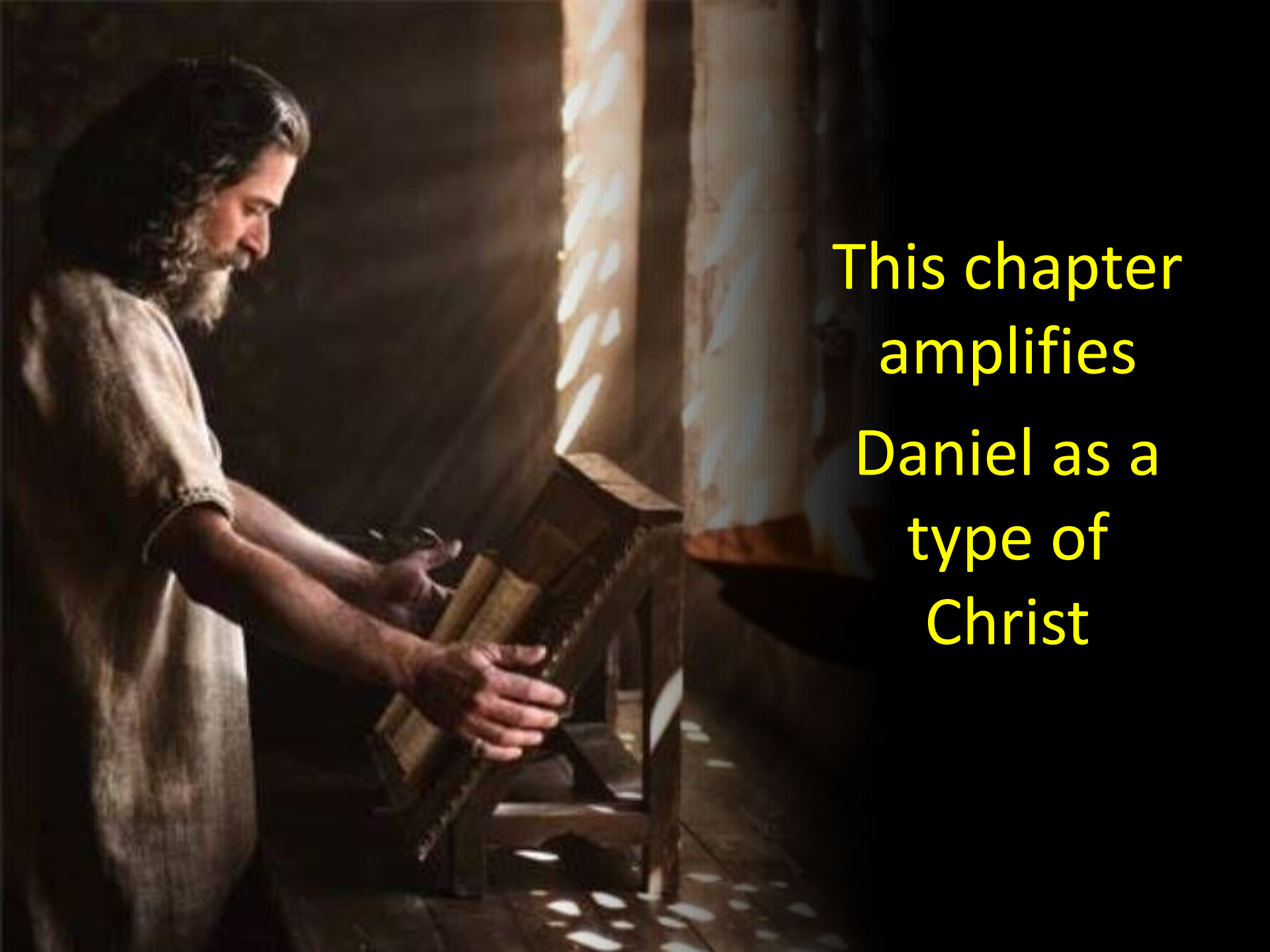


## CHRIST'S EXCELLENCE

*“For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one Man’s obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Rom. 5:19-21*

# DANIEL'S EXCELLENCE vs. 1-9

- Hatred of Daniel was based on 3 things:
  1. Jealousy – his approval with the king and the people, vs.3
  2. Racism – his background was different, “*one of the exiles from Judah.*”, vs.13
  3. Spite - goodness is not popular, “*men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*” Jn. 3:19
- Were these not the same reasons our Lord was hated? Daniel was in good company.



This chapter  
amplifies  
Daniel as a  
type of  
Christ



**What's the difference  
between the persecution  
of Chapter 1 vs. Chapter 6**

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# CHAPTER 1 VS. CHAPTER 6

## Chapter 1:

- They were encouraged to participate in a pagan religion. No mention is made of prohibition against following Yahweh.
- The **CARROT**

## Chapter 6:

- Pagan government attempts to stop the practice worshipping Yahweh. The law is used to supplant true religion.
- The **STICK**

**CHAPTER 1**  
**VS.**  
**CHAPTER 3**  
**VS.**  
**CHAPTER 6**

Chapter 1:

- Pushed toward a pagan religion.

Chapter 3:

- Pushed toward a pagan religion and away from the Living God.

Chapter 6:

- Attempted elimination of worshipping the Living God.



# Turning Point

## JUST AHEAD

### CHAPTER 6

Now the book shifts its focus to Laws and Nations that persecute the people of God.

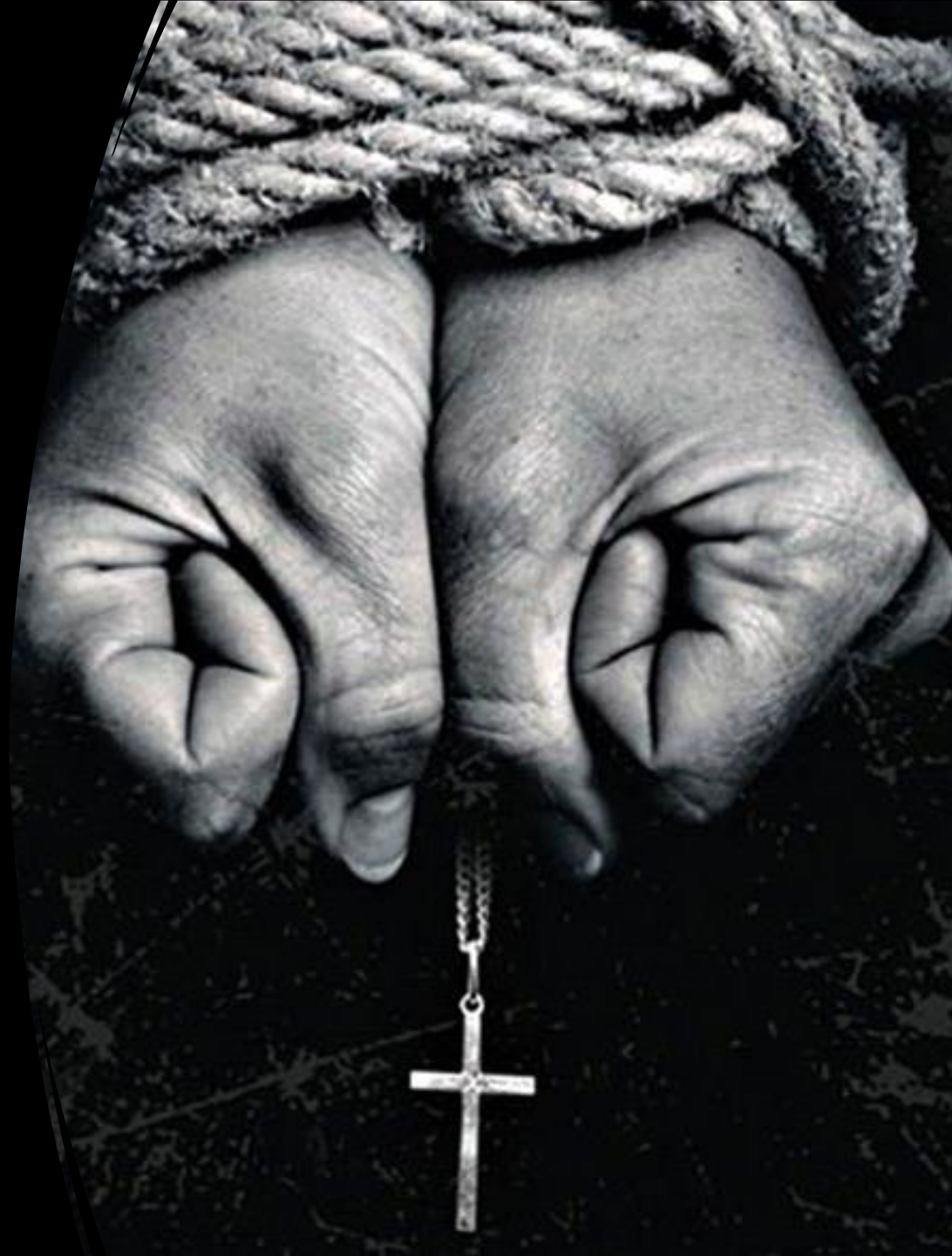
# DANIEL'S TURNING POINT

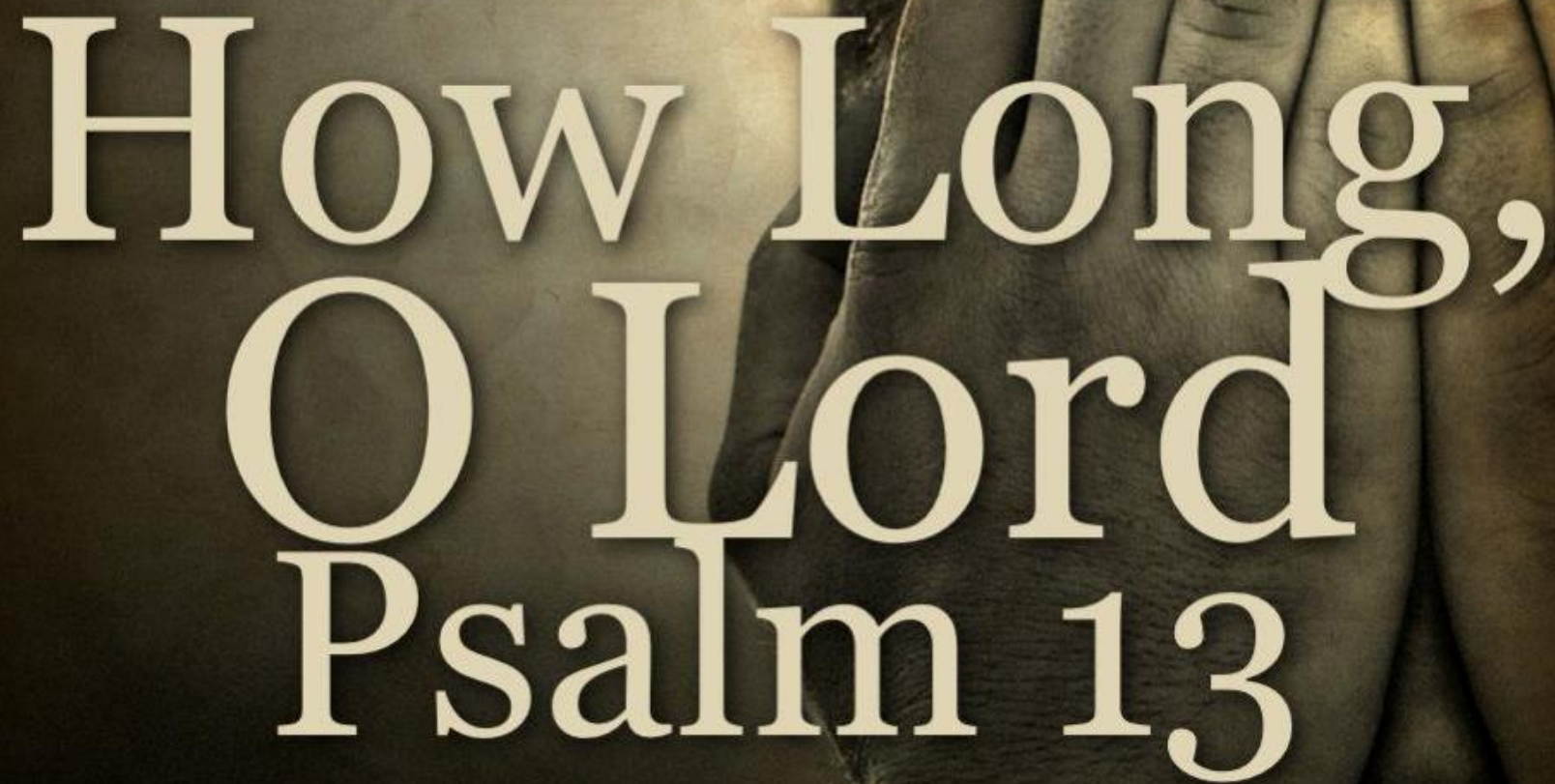
- The law written by the king forced Daniel, and the people of God, to either obey the laws of men or obey God.
  - *“Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.””* Acts 5:29
- This obedience to God leads to conflict, which leads to persecution.
- The rest of the book is devoted to TIME.
- But why?



## Daniel 6-12

When going  
through  
persecution –  
the question on  
one's mind is  
“HOW LONG”.





# How Long, O Lord Psalm 13

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

Thus, Daniel uses this very personal experience to introduce the second half of the book.

# FUTURE EVENTS

- Is there another reason to put this simple story in as an introduction to future events?
- What was the difference between chapter 1 and chapter 6 for Daniel – 2 very personal stories?

# FUTURE EVENTS

Chapter 1:

Daniel Refused to eat

Chapter 6:

Lions refused to eat

# FUTURE EVENTS

Chapter 1:

Daniel obeyed GOD

Chapter 6:

Lions obey Him too!

# FUTURE EVENTS

- Soon nations shall be represented as animals, *the first one being a Lion.*
- As certainly as the lions in the den obeyed God – so will they!
- Again, the words of Joseph “*you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good*”.  
Gen. 50:20

## **DANIEL'S VALUES** vs. 10-11

1. He prayed three times a day.
2. He got down on his knees.
3. He gave thanks to God.
4. He asked God for help

# **DANIEL'S VINDICATION** vs. 12-28

- Now the climax of the story.
- God shut the lion's mouths and Daniel was saved.
- It's a metaphor for the Nation of Israel – though the night may be dark, and lions are all around – God is there! And He will save.



## **DANIEL'S VINDICATION** vs. 12-28

- But let's not forget 1 final point – the plotters were thrown into the den of lions – and they were consumed.
- The bigger animal consumed the smaller.
- This is the steppingstone to the next set of chapters.
- Note that Daniel was removed from the den, and so by metaphor are the people of God as nation devours nation.

# Daniel as a type of Christ

1. Innocent
2. Condemned falsely
3. Buried under a stone



# Daniel as a type of Christ

But all types, at some point, fall short of Christ

Daniel was alive behind the stone

**Christ was dead behind the stone**



# Daniel as a type of Christ

But all types, at some point, fall short of Christ

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God **should taste death for every man.**

Heb. 2:9