

Dear Partner,

Through no fault of his own, the Old Testament prophet Daniel lived most of his life in bondage in a foreign land because of the judgment of God that had fallen on the nation of Israel. Daniel is such a hero of mine, a man who loved God and served God even though his life was not spent living in the land of “milk and honey” that was promised to previous generations. Daniel had not lived a sinful life. It was not his fault that the nation of Israel as a whole had rejected God. Many people would have been bitter that they were living in bondage through no fault of their own. They would have complained saying, “It’s not fair!” Yet Daniel loved God, served God, and remained loyal to God even when threatened with death in the lion’s den. I love this verse that summarizes how Daniel came up out of the lion’s den the next day with no hurt ... it was because Daniel believed in his God!

Dan 6:23 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.

Daniel believed that his God was still all powerful ... even while living in a pagan country ... even while living in a season of judgment! This is important for us to remember as we are living in a country that seems determined to keep provoking God until it too comes into a season of judgment. What God calls sin, our legislators call “right.” To openly say what God says about sin in His Word is to be labeled a bigot and a “hater” in today’s “politically correct” environment. I cannot help but think of our nation now as I read this prophecy from Isaiah:

Isaiah 5:20-24 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (21) Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! (22) Woe unto *them that are* mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: (23) Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! (24) Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, *so* their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

God is merciful, kind, and longsuffering. But God is also the judge of the whole earth. Unless America repents, judgment is certainly soon to come. We are told in scripture that judgment must begin at the house of God. Like Daniel of old, we may soon find ourselves living in a season of judgment. Daniel held true to his God while living in heathen land, and so will we. The key was ... Daniel lived in a heathen land ... but Daniel never let the heathen land live in him. He kept himself pure. He continued to worship his God daily, to serve him daily, and he refused to bow down to heathen gods daily. Remember ... the kingdom of God is within you ... no matter what kingdom surrounds you.

Luk 17:21b Behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Great pressure was put upon Daniel and his friends to submit and bow to the heathen gods of Babylon and Persia. They were threatened with death if they did not bow and worship the heathen gods. Yet they held true and God honored them greatly ... even while living in a pagan land.

It is obvious that the plan of the enemy in our generation is to put financial and political pressure on all believers who will stand up for the truth of the Word of God. In plain words ... financial and social persecution is the price we pay in order to stand up for righteousness in this nation. Judge yourself now, believer. Examine your heart to make sure you don't love your possessions, your status, your family, and yes ... even your own life also more than you love HIM! It has always been this way. Even in the first century Paul said to Timothy:

2Ti 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Paul did not say they "might" suffer persecution. He said they "shall" suffer persecution. The current leaders in America have forsaken the narrow path of righteousness and have chosen instead the wide path of the world that leads to destruction. If you choose to remain on the narrow path, pressure is coming to move you off of it. I pray you join me as I ask the Holy Spirit to examine my heart for idols. If there is anything within that me I love more than Him Who bought me with His own blood ... Lord, help me judge myself so every idol can come down. I want only one "God" sitting on the throne of my heart ... and that is my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Sue and I love you and appreciate you. We thank God for your generous and giving heart. God bless you!

Your friend and co-laborer,

Gary Carpenter