

Daniel is a picture of a faithful Christian. Cyrus is a type of the antichrist (2 Chronicles, Ezra, Isaiah, & Daniel). The tomb of Cyrus is still found in modern day Iran. For over 2,500 years the tomb has withstood windstorms and earthquakes. The form of the building is so extraordinary the people of the country often call it “the court of the devil.” Alexander the Great visited this tomb. One of the inscriptions on the tomb claims, here lies Cyrus, “king of kings.” The Iranians consider Cyrus the founder of the Persian empire. They celebrate Cyrus the Great Day every October 29.

3 Thus says the Lord, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches from secret places...,
4 ...Though you do not know me... (Isaiah 45:3–4)

Just as the Antichrist makes a treaty with Israel (Daniel 9:27), so Cyrus allows the Hebrews to return home and rebuild their temple.

Will we see the Antichrist?

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away (apostacy) comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (2 Thessalonians 2:1–4)

ETS (Essence of the Text in a Sentence): Daniel faithfully lived for God in a wicked time.

ESS (Essence of the Sermon in a Sentence): We need to stay true to God as the world grows darker.

How? Three Safeguards.

I. BE A GOOD PERSON

See verse 4

...the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night... (Revelation 12:10)

Two pastors have recently had moral failures (promiscuity and embezzlement).

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. (Daniel 1:8)

Courage is contagious.

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. 18 But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up." (Daniel 3:16–18; New Living Translation)

Paul said the thing I want to do, I don't do AND the thing I don't want to do, I do.

William Barclay said, "Every man is a walking civil war."

Samuel Chadwick said, "The Christian religion is hopeless without the Holy Ghost."

II. BE A SPIRIT PERSON

See verse 3, Darius the Mede observed.

Belshazzar's wife said, "There is a man in your kingdom in whom *is* the Spirit of the Holy God. And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, *and* soothsayers." (Daniel 5:11)

Nebuchadnezzar said, "Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the Spirit of the Holy God *is* in you, and no secret troubles you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and its interpretation." (Daniel 4:9)

Tongues are not the sign to look for! It's not how high you jump on Sunday, it's how straight you walk on Monday!

The fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22-23. Make sure your lamp has oil in it!

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)

To be continually filled with the Spirit we must pray without ceasing.

III. BE A PRAYING PERSON

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. (Daniel 6:10)

So He Himself *often* withdrew into the wilderness and prayed. (Luke 5:16)

Daniel by this time was about 85 years old. He had seen a lot of trouble in his day, but he learned to trust God in every storm.

Now the king was exceedingly 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 injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God. (Daniel 6:23)

CONCLUSION

The more I see those scars the more I love him! The lion's den became a petting zoo.

17 ...Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord will deliver me... (2 Timothy 4:17–18)

He was delivered. He will deliver me.

Last summer in Butler, Pennsylvania President Trump was delivered. Three weeks ago Charlie Kirk was also delivered. Job says your death day is better than your birthday.

“And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Mark 13:13)

Some of us God will take out. Some of us God will take through. For God we live and for God we die. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is depicted. Daniel was in the tomb one night, but Jesus was in His tomb three nights. Death is a deliverance just as Jesus arose from the grave.

A storm came up on a tour boat on Lake Erie. Everyone panicked but one older woman. Why?! “I have two daughters. One lives in Buffalo, the other lives in heaven; and it really doesn't matter to me which one I see first!”

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Revelation 12:11)

...the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out *great exploits*. (Daniel 11:32)

Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian. (Daniel 6:28)

You too can stand tall before the rising antichrist. You must be a good person but to be a good person you must be a Spirit person. And to be a Spirit person you must be a praying person.

但以理是忠心基督徒的典範。塞魯士是敵基督的預表（參見《歷代志下》、《以斯拉記》、《以賽亞書》與《但以理書》）。塞魯士的陵墓至今仍可在現代伊朗找到。這座陵墓經歷超過兩千五百年的風暴與地震仍然屹立不搖。陵墓的建築形式極為特殊，以致當地人常稱之為「魔鬼的宮廷」。亞歷山大大帝曾造訪此陵墓。陵墓上的一處銘文宣稱，這裡安葬的是塞魯士，「萬王之王」。伊朗人視塞魯士為波斯帝國的創立者，他們每年於 10 月 29 日慶祝「大塞魯士日」。

3 我要將暗中的寶物和隱密的財寶賜給你...，4 你雖不認識我...。(以賽亞書 45:3-4)

正如敵基督與以色列立約 (但以理書 9:27)，塞魯士也允許希伯來人返回故土，重建他們的聖殿。

我們會見到敵基督嗎？

1 弟兄們，論到我們主耶穌基督降臨和我們到他那裡聚集，2 我勸你們：無論有靈、有言語、有冒我名的書信，說主的日子現在到了，不要輕易動心，也不要驚慌。3 人不拘用什麼法子，你們總不要被他誘惑；因為那日子以前，必有離道反教的事，並有那大罪人，就是沉淪之子，顯露出來。4 他是抵擋主，高抬自己，超過一切稱為神的和一切受人敬拜的，甚至坐在神的殿裡，自稱是神。(帖撒羅尼迦後書 2:1-4)

主題真理：但以理在邪惡的時代中忠心地為神而活。

生活應用：當這個世界越來越黑暗時，我們也需要持守對神的忠誠。

如何做到？三個保障措施。

I. 成為一個良善的人

請看第 4 節

...那在我們神面前晝夜控告我們弟兄的...。(啟示錄 12:10)

近期有兩位牧師在道德上失敗 (淫亂與盜用公款)。

但以理卻立志不以王的膳和王所飲的酒玷污自己，所以求太監長容他不玷污自己。(但以理書 1:8)

勇氣是有傳染力的。

16 沙得拉、米煞、亞伯尼歌對王說：「尼布甲尼撒啊，這件事我們不必回答你；17 即便如此，我們所事奉的神能將我們從烈火的窯中救出來。王啊，他也必救我們脫離你的手；18 即或不然，王啊，你當知道我們決不事奉你的神，也不敬拜你所立的金像。」(但以理書 3:16-18)

保羅說：「我所願意的，我並不去做；我所不願意的，我倒去做。」

威廉·巴克萊說：「每一個人都是一場行走中的內戰。」

撒母耳·查德威克說：「沒有聖靈，基督信仰是毫無盼望的。」

II. 成為一個屬靈的人

請看第 4 節。瑪代人大利烏有在注意。

伯沙撒王的妻子說：「在你國中有一人，他裡頭有聖神的靈，你父在世的日子，這人心中光明，又有聰明智慧，好像神的智慧。你父尼布甲尼撒王，就是王的父，立他為術士、用法術的，和迦勒底人，並觀兆的領袖。」(但以理書 5:11)

尼布甲尼撒王說：『術士的領袖伯提沙撒啊，因我知道你裡頭有聖神的靈，什麼奧秘的事都不能使你為難。現在要把我夢中所見的異象和夢的講解告訴我。』(但以理書 4:9)

方言不是你該尋求的記號！重點不是你在主日跳得多高，而是你在星期一走得多正！

聖靈的果子 – 加拉太書 5:22-23。要確保你的燈裡有油！

不要醉酒，酒能使人放蕩；乃要被聖靈充滿。(以弗所書 5:18)

要持續被聖靈充滿，我們必須不住地禱告。

III. 成為一個禱告的人

但以理知道這禁令蓋了玉璽，就到自己家裡(他樓上的窗戶開向耶路撒冷)，一日三次，雙膝跪在他神面前，禱告感謝，與素常一樣。(但以理書 6:10)

耶穌卻退到曠野去禱告。(路加福音 5:16)

到了這時候，但以理大約八十五歲了。他在一生中經歷了許多困難，但他學會在每場風暴中信靠神。

王就甚喜樂，吩咐人將但以理從坑裡繫上來。於是但以理從坑裡被繫上來，身上毫無傷損，因為信靠他的神。(但以理書 6:23)

結論

我越看那些傷痕，就越愛他！獅子坑變成了寵物園。

17 ...我也從獅子口裡被救出來。18 主必救我脫離諸般的兇惡...。(提摩太後書 4:17-18)

他得到了拯救，祂也會拯救我。

去年夏天，在賓夕法尼亞州巴特勒，川普總統得到了拯救。三週前，查理·柯克也得到了拯救。約伯說，你的死日比生日更好。

「並且你們要為我的名被眾人恨惡。惟有忍耐到底的，必然得救。」(馬可福音 13:13)

我們當中有些人，神會把他們帶走；有些人，神會帶他們經過。我們為神而活，我們也為神而死。耶穌基督的復活在其中顯明。但以理在「墳墓」裡經過一夜，耶穌在祂的墳墓裡經過三夜。死亡是一種拯救，正如耶穌從墳墓裡復活一樣。

在伊利湖上，一艘旅遊船遇到暴風。所有人都驚慌失措，除了一位年長的婦人。為什麼呢？她說：「我有兩個女兒，一個住在水牛城，另一個住在天堂；我先見到哪一個對我來說真的無所謂！」

弟兄勝過他，是因羔羊的血和自己所見證的道。他們雖至於死，也不愛惜性命。(啟示錄 12:11)

...惟獨認識神的子民必剛強行事。(但以理書 11:32)

如此，這但以理，當大利烏王在位的時候和波斯王古列在位的時候，大亨亨通。(但以理書 6:28)

你也可以在那正在崛起的敵基督面前站立得穩。你必須是一個良善的人；但要成為一個良善的人，你必須是一個屬靈的人；而要成為一個屬靈的人，你必須是一個禱告的人。