

CLASH OF KINGDOMS

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Daniel chapter 6

(Sermon from Sunday 7 August, Richard van Lieshout)

1. Information

a) Read the passage, perhaps twice using two different versions

b) Fill in any info that didn't make it into the sermon.

- For reference, my sermon outline was as follows:
 1. **People:** the example of Daniel
 - a) Distinguished
 - b) Incorruptible
 - c) Distinct
 - d) Bold
 - e) Respectful
 2. **Politics:** Christians confronting culture
 3. **Principalities:** The real clash of kingdoms
- I didn't make my way sequentially through the chapter, instead I picked out themes in the chapter (and preceding chapters).
- This also means there is quite a bit of content around the text that I did not get to (as per the info in the manual).
- Because of this, I think **for this week it may be a helpful strategy for CG leaders to read through the text and comment!**

d) Answer any questions the group might have

2. Activation

a) On 'People'

- Week 2 of our study (Chapter 2 pt 1) included the suggestion to track with the character of Daniel and start noting his example (Activation part c 'The way of the Exile'). There I suggested there might not be time in the series to do a 'biography' of Daniel, but I found time this week!
- So:
 - **If your group did** look at the character of Daniel back then, then you could dig up that work and supplement it with what we learned about Daniel in chapter 6. Chapter 6 adds the most material on the character of Daniel, so it would be well-worth revisiting the it if you have done it already.
 - **If your group did not** spend time on the character of Daniel back in chapter 2, then I highly suggest using the points learned about Daniel from chapter 6 as the backbone of a character study, supplementing with the notes from chapter 2.
- **I would suggest starting your character study by reflecting on the difference between 'role models' and 'examples'**, perhaps going back to the text I used in setting this up in the sermon:
 - Hebrews 11:32-34
 - Hebrews 12:1-2

b) On 'Politics'

- The subject of a Christian view on protest, or engaging with current culture, is a large and complex one.
- The most basic point to make, which I made in the sermon, is that Christians can (and should, at times) be active in protest where Christian principles are threatened by current worldviews, particularly when it results in legislature.
- However, the basic principle is that if Christians are actively engaging culture/worldviews, they should do it with respect and integrity.
- **Perhaps your group could simply discuss:**
 - **What** current issues Christians should be engaged with
 - **How** we should go about engaging with them
- **If your group wants to 'activate' this, it might be helpful to study the example of William Wilberforce**, the great emancipator of the late 18th century. For a comprehensive and helpful biography see the paper by Pastor John Pipe [here](#).

c) On 'Principalities'

- This part of the sermon focused on the continued theme (THE theme of Daniel) of God's unfolding Kingdom program, and Daniel's involvement in it.
- We know for sure he was involved in it through prayer¹:
 - Daniel 9:1-19
 - 1 Kings 8:46-50
 - Cf Jer 25:11
- **Discuss how we should be prayerfully engaged with God's kingdom program, perhaps with reference to the first few lines of 'The Lord's prayer' (Matt 6:9-13)**

¹ Passages expounded on in the sermon

3. Implementation

- Recall, Implementation is the third step in interpretation:
 - i. What?
 - ii. So what?
 - iii. **Now what?**
- **At the very least, follow Daniel's example and PRAY together, particularly around God's kingdom coming on earth 'as it is in heaven'! Pray also for specific cultural issues that are confronting a faithful Christian view.**