



Empowering People to Change the World

# **Ominous Times & the Power of Prayer Part 3**

Steve Holt

***I am growing to love Jesus with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength***

***I am growing to love people the way Jesus loves them***

***I am building up my faith with God's Holy Word***

***I am coming alive in the power of the Holy Spirit***

***With Jesus, all things are possible***

## **Ominous Times and the Power of Prayer, Part 3**

### **Daniel 6**

The past three weeks we've been looking at the power of prayer during ominous, difficult times.

**Ominous - Giving the impression that something bad or unpleasant is going to happen; threatening; inauspicious.**

Yes? Sounds like the times we're living in for sure.

- But God is training us for righteousness.

### **Isaiah 26:9**

**With my soul I have desired You in the night,  
Yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early;  
For when Your judgments are in the earth,  
The inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.**

#1 Google search of the past 5 years has been "prayer."

- God is consuming everything that can be shaken so that we will lean on God like never before.

### **Jeremiah 33:3**

**Call to Me, and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.**

- The first week we looked at 2 Chron. 7:14.
- Last week we looked at Hezekiah in 2 Kings 18-19.
- This week I want to look at Daniel.

## **Daniel 6**

- Belshazzar is deposed—the infamous finger “writing on the wall.”
- Look at the last two verses of Daniel 5.
- Darius is either Cyrus or a Vassal-King under Cyrus.
- Look at vs. 28. That word “and” can be translated “that is.”

### **Vs. 1-2**

**Daniel is one of 3 key leaders with the Vassal-King over the whole kingdom.**

- This is amazing since he’s a captive Jew. Look at what God can do to position believers in key positions.
  - We need some of you to run for office! City Councilmen, County Supervisors, Mayor and Legislators.
  - The King so trusted these men that he blessed them with significant positions.
  - Do you realize that government officials are actually ministers to the Lord? They are “public servants” to the people. Look at Romans 13.

### **Vs. 3**

**There is great power in having an excellent spirit.**

- Now look at this! Daniel’s character was so excellent that this non-believing King Cyrus, wanted him to have power over the entire kingdom!
- But jealousy and envy always follow success.

### **Vs. 4-5**

- No girls or gold! No adultery, no embezzlement, no mistakes, “no nothing!”
- Daniel was like Jesus in that Satan had nothing on Him. His character was perfect.

- But there was this one area—His devotion to the Lord. He wasn't going to worship the idols of the Medes and Persians.

### **Vs. 6-9**

#### **Kings, Governors and Presidents LOVE flattery!**

- If there is an Achilles Heel of most leaders, it's the flattery of men.
- Executive Order signed by the King.

### **Vs. 10**

#### **The Power of prayer! The power of defiance against unjust laws!**

- Daniel just kept doing what he has been doing his whole life.
- Daniel even OPENED HIS WINDOWS. Everyone could see.

### **Revelation 12:10-12**

**Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation and strength and the kingdom of our God and the power of His Christ have come, for the Accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 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. Therefore rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the Devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."**

- Daniel is ready to suffer the consequences for defying the King.
- Church: our allegiance is always Jesus first, the Government second.
- The early Church continued to preach the Gospel under some of the most heinous and evil emperors the world has ever known: Nero, Domitian and many others.
  - Hunted down and tortured for not following the edicts of the Roman Emperors.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer refused to follow the laws of Hitler.

- Daniel is willing to die for his faith in God. “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.” (Tertullian)
- The power of prayer and a righteous life can deliver us!

### **Vs. 11**

**These guys are really evil! They don't care about the empire—they want power.**

- I believe they caught him in prayer because they recognized that Daniel's prayers had power on them.
- The secret to Daniel's power, character and wisdom was prayer! Satan hates it when we pray.
- The Disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, not how to cast out demons, heal the sick or anything else.

### **Vs. 12-17**

- One thing you can know about most politicians is they don't want to be seen as weak.
- This is Cyrus and he loved Daniel. Josephus tells us that Daniel was the one who showed him Isaiah 45 and told him the prophecy of sending the Jews back to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. He didn't want to do this, but he had been outmaneuvered by his own staff team.

### **Vs. 18**

**How did Cyrus know to fast? How did he know the power of fasting? Daniel had taught him.**

- Who's worried here? Is it Daniel or Cyrus?

### **Vs. 19-20**

- What a powerful witness Daniel had. The King knew Daniel's faith and he even called God “the living God...whom you serve continually.”

**Vs. 21-23**

**The power of believing in God!**

That's my prayer for all of us at The Road, that we would be known as a people who believe in God!

**Vs. 24-28**

**This is a Kingdom of God revolution in Persia!**