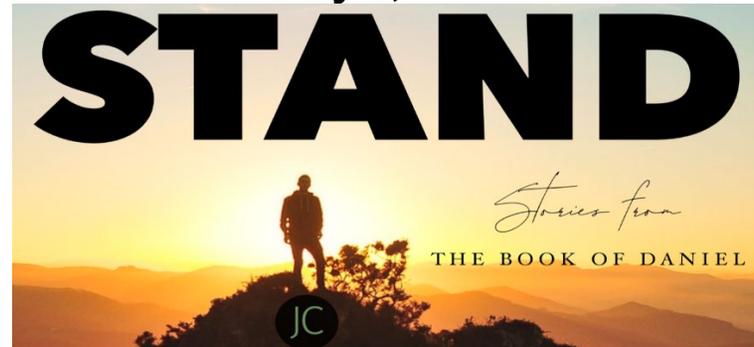


STAND – Week #3
STAND STRONG
Happy Mother's Day!
May 9, 2021



Daniel 6:1-2 (NIV) *It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, ² with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss.*

Daniel 5:11a (NIV) *There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods.*

Daniel 6:3-5 (NIV) *Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."*



Daniel 6:6-9 (NIV) *So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! 7 The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. 8 Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” 9 So King Darius put the decree in writing.*

Daniel 6:10 (NIV) *Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.*

Even when God is lifting you up, this world can tear you down.

PRAYER FOR SERENITY

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time;
**accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
taking, as Jesus did,
this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to Your will;
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with You forever in the
next. Amen.**

~ Reinhold Niebuhr

God is always with us and he is always for us – He is faithful in ALL things and ALL times



When you stand for what's right, you can always trust God with the results.

Daniel 6:22 (NIV) - *'My God sent His angel, **and He shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in His sight.** Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.'* ²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, **no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.** ²⁴ At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: "May you prosper greatly!" ²⁶ "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

*"For he is the living God
and he endures forever;*

*his kingdom will not be destroyed,
his dominion will never end.*

²⁷ *He rescues and he saves;
he performs signs and wonders
in the heavens and on the earth.*

*He has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions."*

²⁸ *So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*

SINNER'S PRAYER:

God, I know I'm a sinner. I can't fix myself.
But I believe you can. Come into my life.
And make me new. I give myself to you.
In Jesus' name, I pray.



TAKE IT FURTHER:

Thinking back, have you ever experienced “Crab Syndrome” where you’ve tried to tear someone else down because you were jealous of their success or where someone tried to tear you down when God was lifting you up? How did this affect you?

When you come up against opposition, what is your first inclination – to bring it to God or something else? What practices do you think you could start in your life to ensure that your first reaction to troubles is to go to God?

If you were faced with a difficult situation like Daniel where you were not able to faithfully worship God, how likely do you think it is that you’d be able to stand strong?

CHALLENGE: Think about some specific times in your life when God has proven himself faithful. Write about those times and pray on who you may share that testimony with to help them stand strong.

