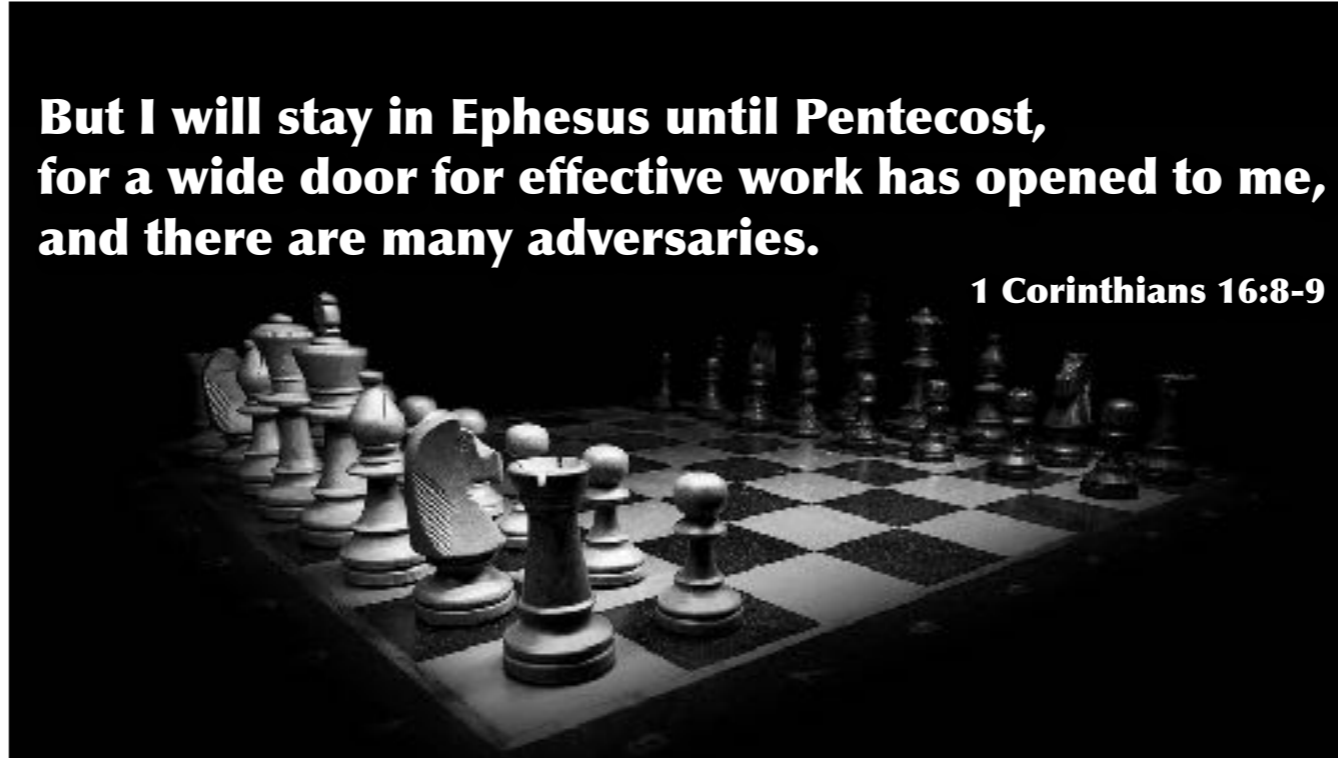


**But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost,
for a wide door for effective work has opened to me,
and there are many adversaries.**

1 Corinthians 16:8-9



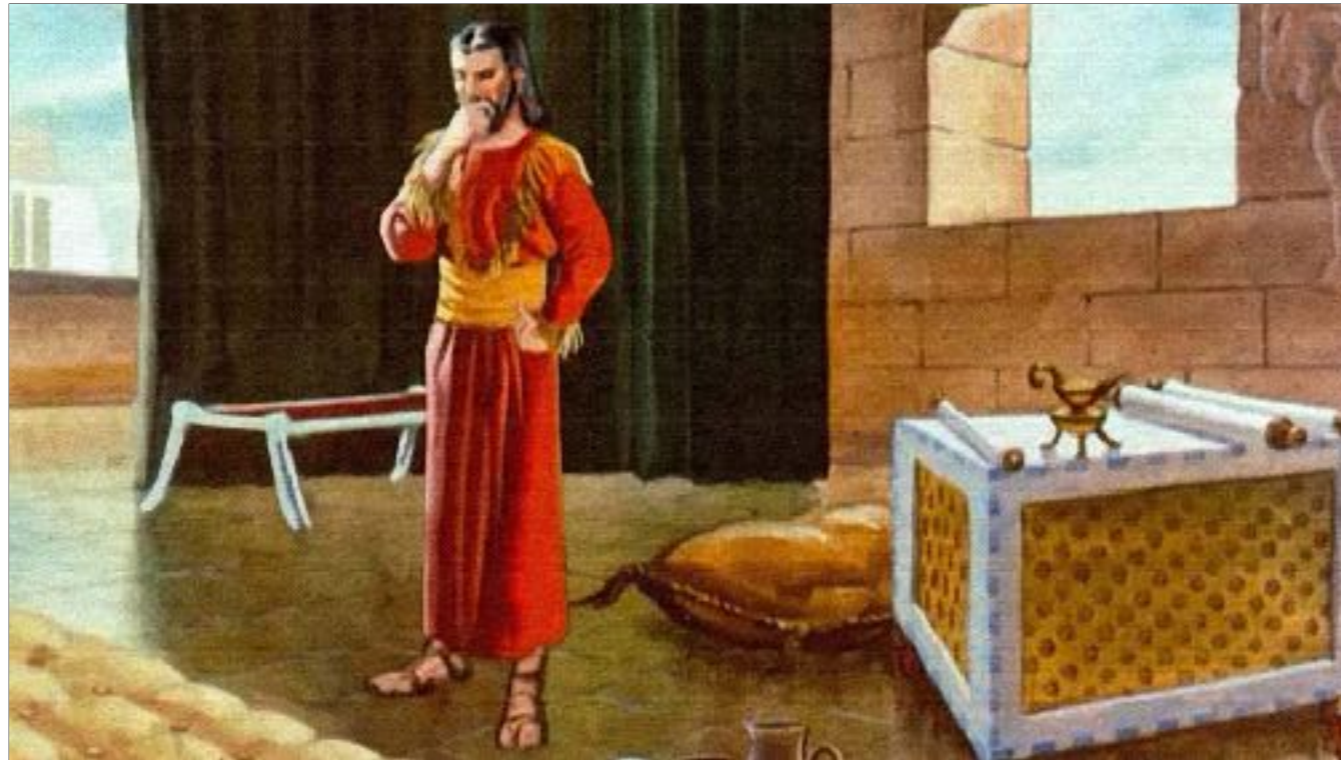
- 1 Corinthians 16:8-9 (ESV) 8 But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, 9 for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.



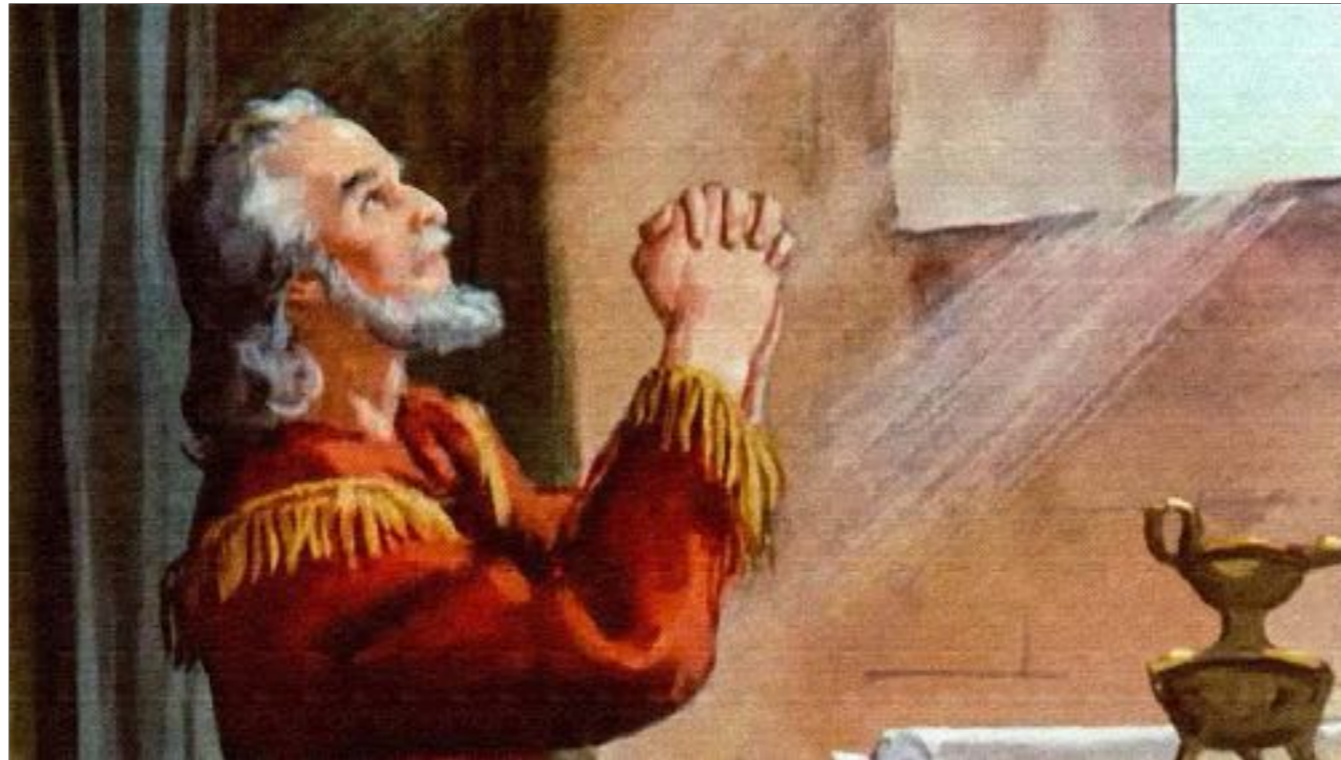
- Darius, king of Medes has defeated the Babylonians
- He's putting his government together: highest level is satrap: 3
- Daniel is chosen as a satrap
 - distinguished himself above all others in the government (3)
 - excellent spirit in him (3)
 - Faithful: no fault, no error (4)



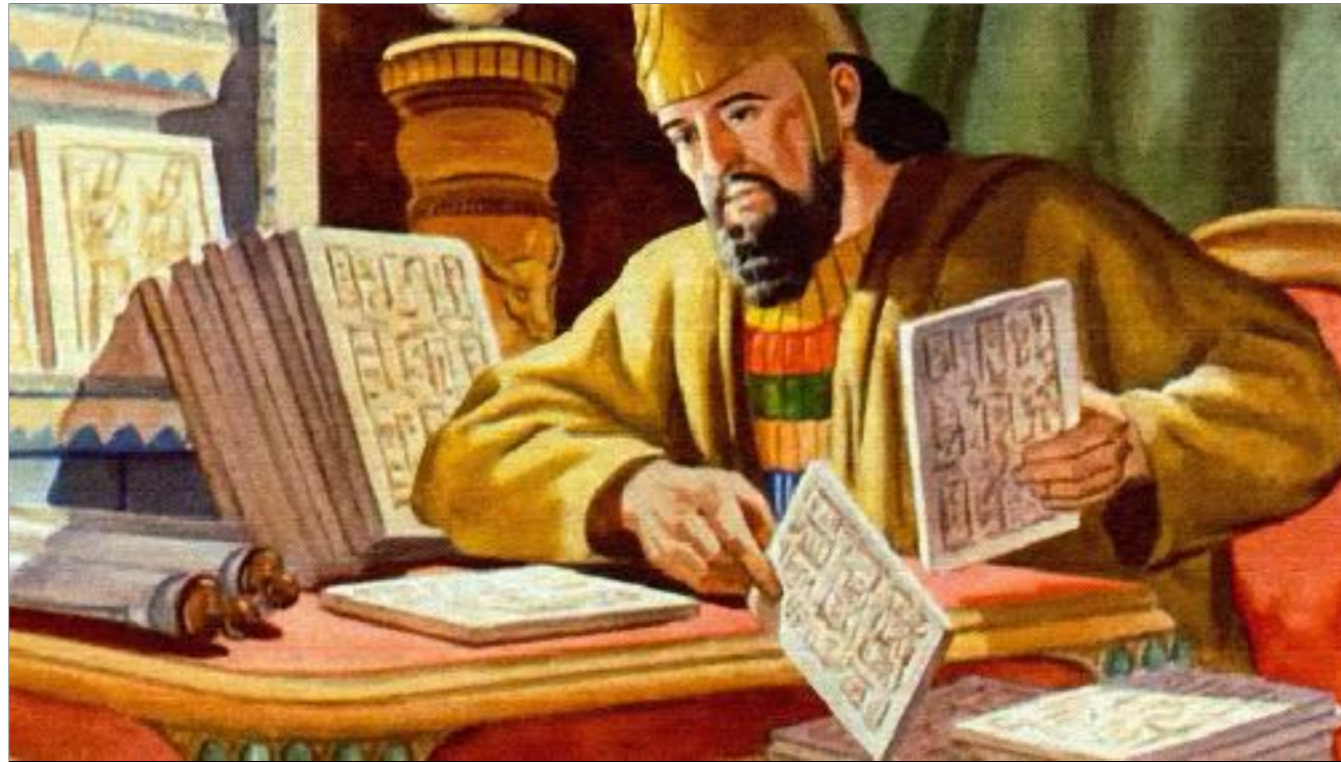
- Other officials tried to find a problem with Daniel
- They wanted to get rid of him?
- Couldn't find anything wrong ...
- Only could find things with regard to God's law
 - no petition to any man or any god for 30 days except Darius
- Document signed, can't be changed



- v.10: Daniel knows that the document is signed
 - Daniel has decisions to make
 - What's the best thing to do in this situation: life or death; god or man; temporary; secret or openly

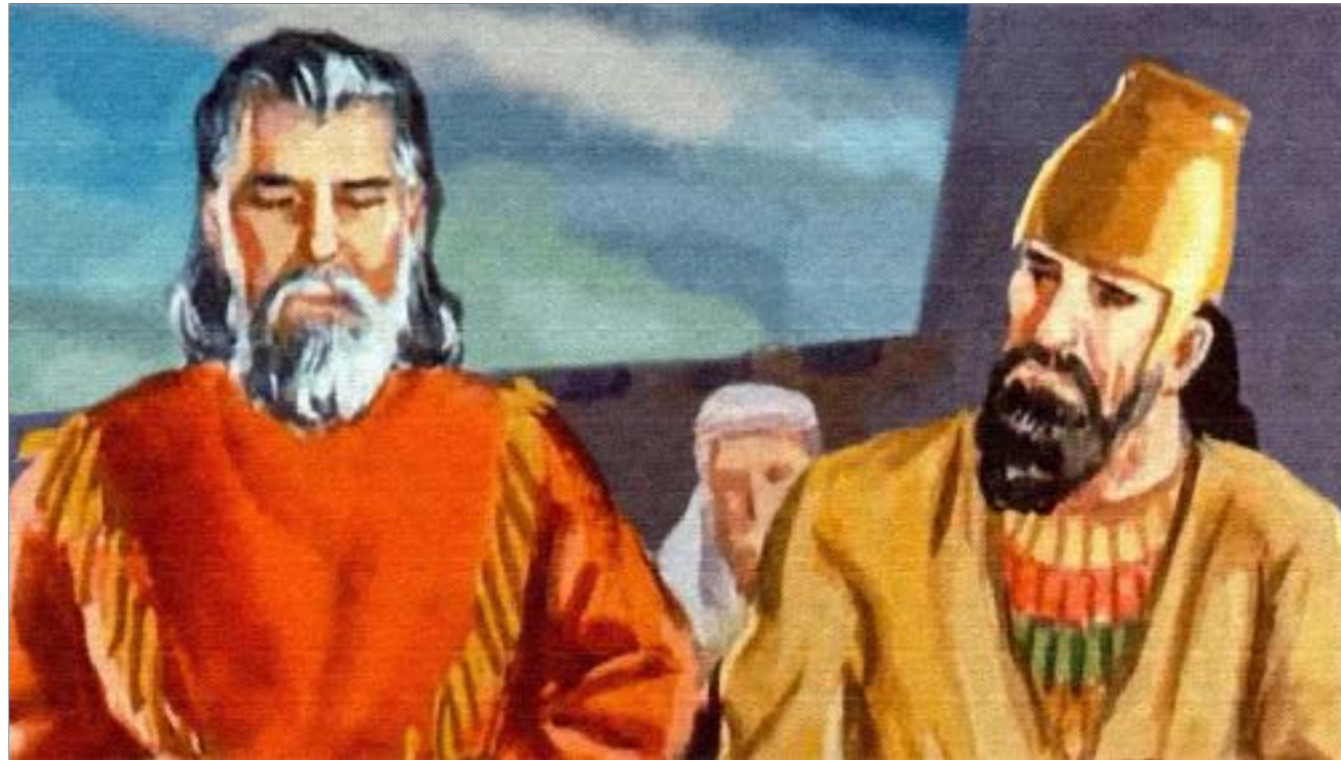


- open window
- down on knees
- 3X / day
- as done previously
- v. 11: making petition and plea before his God
- When adversary's see this, they accuse Daniel before the king.



- v. 14-15: Darius is much distressed
 - determines to deliver Daniel
 - labored until the sun went down to rescue Daniel

•



- v. 16: As Daniel is getting ready to thrown into lion's den
- May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you.



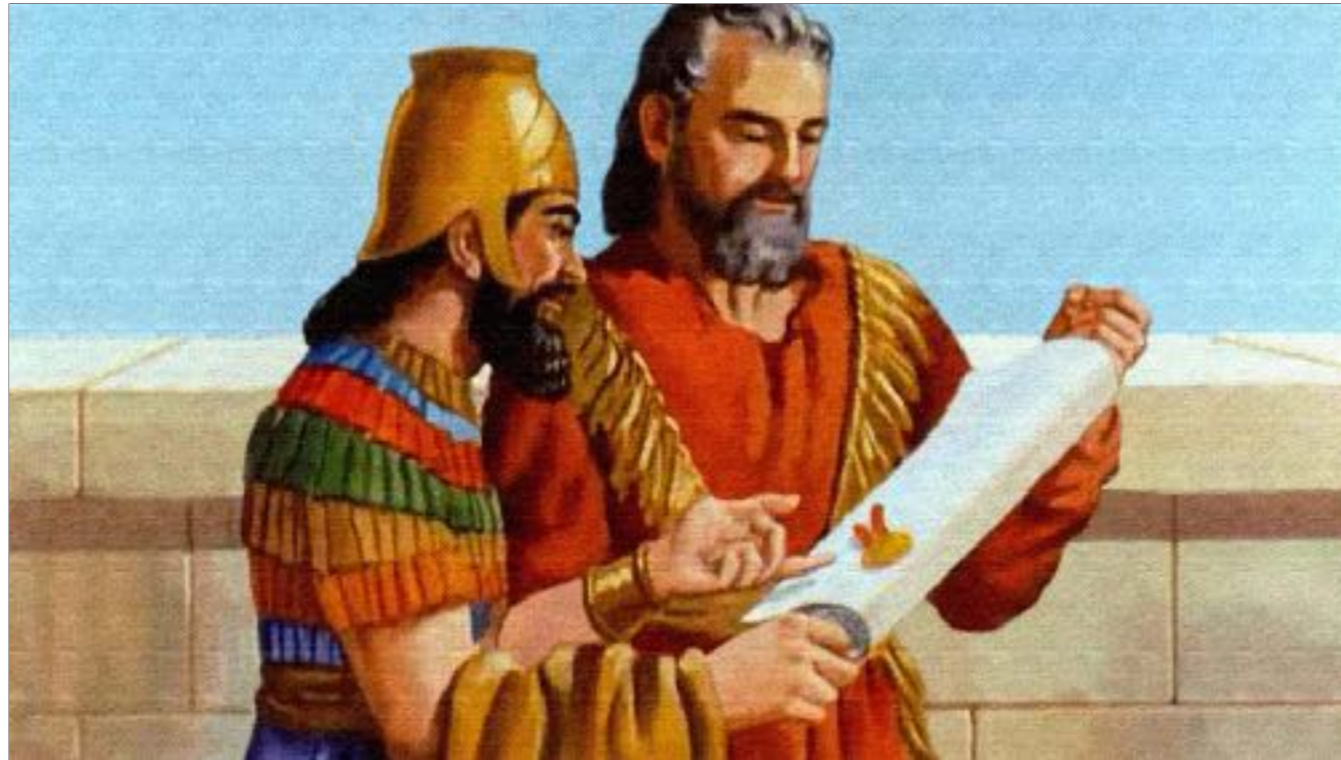
- Daniel is thrown in the lion's den
- King doesn't eat or sleep that night.
-



- At break of day
 - Darius calls to Daniel:
 - servant of the living God
 - serve continually
 - Has your God been able to deliver you from the lions?
 - (This has many implications about how 'gods' were perceived by most people)
 - limited ability, area of influence, power
-



- Daniel (21)
- My God sent his angel
- shut the lion's mouths — not harmed me
- Because I was found blameless before Him
 - The judgment of his peers and king were meaningless compared to God's judgment
- Before you, O King, I have done no harm
 - Charge of adversary's in verse 13:
 - exiles of Judah
 - pays no attention to you, O King
 - or the injunction you signed
 - makes petition three times a day
- v. 23: no harm because he trusted in his God



- Darius' Decree (25)
- Tremble and fear before God of Daniel
- Living God, enduring forever
- Kingdom never destroyed (exiles!!!)
- dominion to the end
- delivers, rescues
- signs, wonders, heaven, earth
- Daniel prospered (28)



- Opportunities on the Job
 - distinguished yourself above others
 - excellent spirit
 - faithful: no fault, no error



- Daniel's example of diligence and distinction in a difficult place
 - He is an exile; his people were captives
 - Still worked hard
 - Same with Joseph, son of Jacob as slave and prisoner
- Strove to excel.
-



- Our job and Our faith
 - When we are at work, we are being paid to do a job.
 - It's rarely (never) appropriate for us to be constantly trying to teach gospel (not working), nor distracting others by trying to teach them the gospel (they aren't working).
 - 1 Peter 3:1-2 (ESV) 1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct.



- To Servants
 - Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,
- 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 (ESV) 11 and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, 12 so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.
- Remember that by striving for excellence on the job, especially in difficult situations, you are showing others the character of a child of God. This is evangelism without a word.



- Opportunities in our Relationship with God
 - Prayer
 - Three times a day ... petition, plea
 - Serve Continually (2X)
 - Servant of the Living God
 - Trust in His God



- Light Shine without being Hypocritical
 - Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV) 13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.



Relationship with God

- Light Shine without being Hypocritical
 - If our relationship with God is less than it should be, we will not be shining in the dark
 - For our lights to burn bright ... serve God continually.
- Vital to be in close relationship with our heavenly father.



- Matthew 6:1 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.
- Giving
- Praying
- Fasting
- Daniel praying with his window open, three times a day: and they know!
 - Shining light or hypocrisy?



- Do what is right before God, don't do it to impress others.
- Daniel lived in such a way that his faith was obvious both to the king and his adversaries.
 - He was salt and light.
 - King sought to deliver him
 - Adversaries knew of his faith in God (used against him because they knew of his faithfulness)
 - King: "serve continually"
 - There was nothing about the way he lived that they saw it as a negative



- Opportunities among the Adversaries
 - Specifically targeted because of his success, and without fault
 - Sometimes those who are opposed to us have nothing initially to do with our faith.
 - Though faith may eventually come into the equation.



- What Daniel Didn't do
 - He didn't lash out against his adversaries, attack them, or threaten them.
 - Said nothing.
 - He didn't go to the king and make accusations or point fingers
 - He didn't protest that the law was wrong, unjust, unfair
 - He didn't give into their scheming plan.
 - He didn't let the consequences stop him.
 - He didn't rationalize choosing not to serve God faithfully.



- What Daniel Did
 - He did what he always did ... without hiding
 - Blameless before God (v. 22)
 - He did no harm to the king (v. 22)
 - harm: hurt, crime, wrong, injury
 - Certainly he violated the law ... so how could he claim that he didn't commit a crime?
 - How could he claim no harm to the king when he despised the king's authority?



- Those in the world will often find ways to make us try to be less than we must be.
 - Jealousy, revenge, meanness, blame
 - Daniel teaches us
 - Don't cause harm
 - Don't be criminal
 - Be innocent before God.



- Finding Allies

- Daniel 6:14 (ESV) 14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him.



- Philippians 2:14-16 (ESV) 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, **among whom you shine as lights in the world**, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.



- 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 (ESV) 31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.



- Daniel 6:16-18 (ESV) 16 Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” 17 And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. 18 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.



- Daniel 6:25-28 (ESV) 25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: “Peace be multiplied to you. 26 I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel,
- for he is the living God,
- enduring forever;
- his kingdom shall never be destroyed,
- and his dominion shall be to the end.
- 27 He delivers and rescues;
- he works signs and wonders
- in heaven and on earth,
- he who has saved Daniel
- from the power of the lions.”



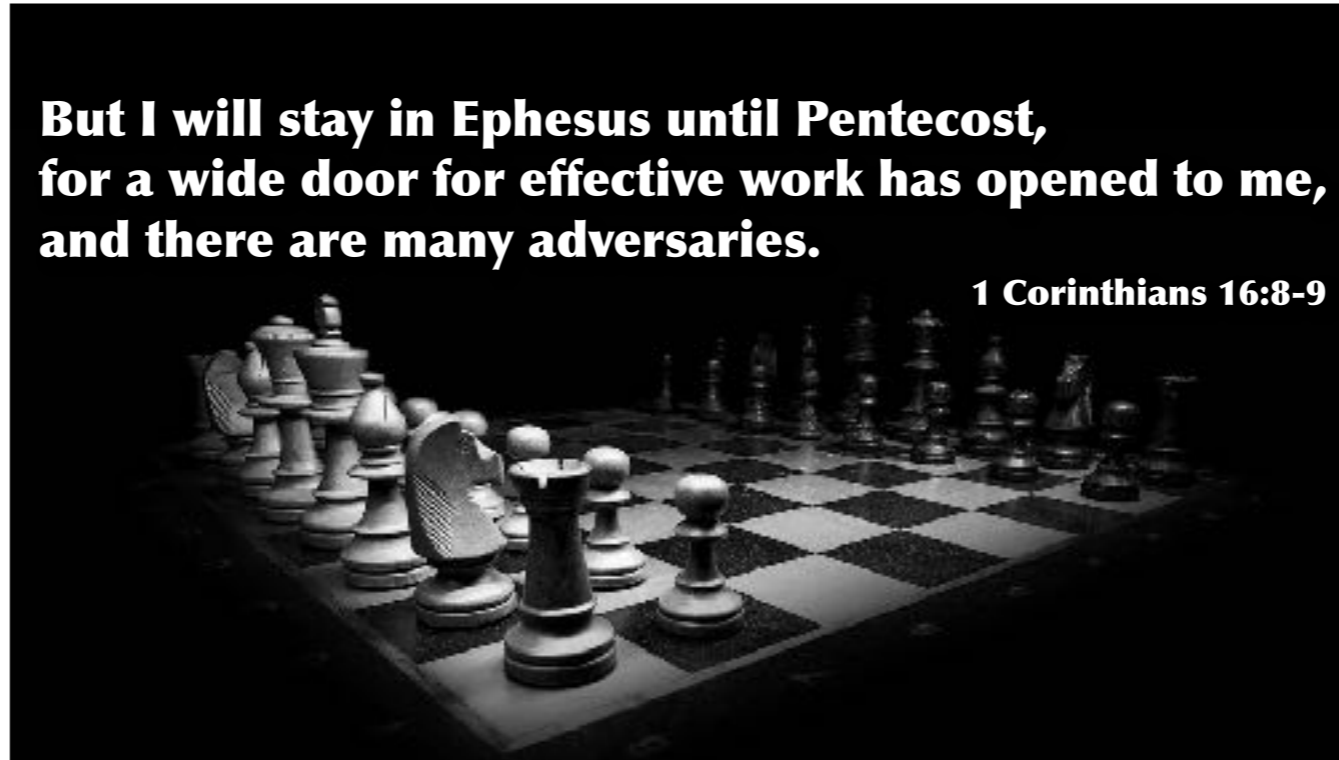
- 28 So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.



- I think we find this to be difficult.
 - Often we expect those of the world to be so different from us, we expect opposition.
 - Daniel found a true ally in King Darius.
 - There are people in the world who even without being saints may be our allies.
 - It's okay.

**But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost,
for a wide door for effective work has opened to me,
and there are many adversaries.**

1 Corinthians 16:8-9



- Just because there is opposition, does not mean there are not also opportunities.
- Live righteously like Daniel: be a shining light.
- Keep trusting in God and being faithful to Him in spite of opposition.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Open Doors

#07

Compiled and Presented by:
Dave Stewart
2022 May 29
www.1corinthians1614.com

When Daniel Knew

Daniel 6

Synopsis: When Daniel was unjustly thrown into the lion's den, Jehovah saved him. Daniel reminds us that we are shining lights in this world when we serve him continually and trust Him. And that means there are opportunities when we are at our jobs, when we face adversaries, and we may even find unexpected allies in this world.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”