

Biblical Persecution

Daniel 6. 1-24

[In the last few weeks (Aug-Sept 2015) we have seen Biblical Persecution arise in the United States of America. Whereby a Christian County Clerk in Kentucky, Kim Davis, refused to issue Marriage Licenses to Homosexual couples based on,]

- [Her religious convictions concerning **The Word of God**; A Christian's supreme authority.]
- [Her States Authority, which current Kentucky law establishes marriage as the union of one man with one woman. The Kentucky State constitution passed this constitutional amendment by a vote of 75% of the citizens of Kentucky.]
- [The Declaration of the United States Supreme Court, which recently declared that homosexual marriages should be legal in all 50 states. However, while the supreme court can make such a ruling it cannot implement a legislative law. For the supreme court to legislate is Judicial Tyranny.]

[In Kentucky all marriage licenses are authorized by the county clerks. Which means that Kim Davis has to sign and authorize every Marriage License issued by her office. Some other states have made provisions for Christian County Clerks who could not issue such licenses based on their religious convictions, but Kentucky has made no such provision at this time. Hence, Kim Davis would have to violate her allegiance to God in order to issue such marriage licenses; which NO CHRISTIAN should ever have to do in America, it is our First Amendment right.]

[**There are those who say,**]

- [“Kim Davis must obey the Laws of America.” Kim Davis is obeying the laws of America. Our first right as Americans is the right and duty to obey God first. God is our Supreme Authority.]
- [“Kim Davis should just resign and step down.” Absolutely not! No citizen in America should ever be refused to serve in ANY public office based on their faith. It is our first amendment right.]
- [“Kim Davis is not being religiously persecuted she is being insolent and obstinate.” To my surprise many who are making this statement claim to be Christians. Apparently, these Christians don't know their Bibles because if they did they would know how to identify Biblical Persecution.]

[For this reason, I bring this message this morning.]

[Do you know how to identify Biblical Persecution when it arises?]

[Read Text]

Eph 6.10

[Christians, can you recognize Biblical Persecution when you see it?]

[The Word of God states,]

[2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.]

[Our Lord Jesus Christ said,]

[Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.]

[This means that Born Again Christian's, living out their Christian Journey will be as sheep in the midst of wolves enduring persecution for our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Word of God.]

[Therefore the Word of God says,]

[Ephesians 6:10-11 ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.]

[The word "WILES" means the methods or plans of the devil.]

[Listen we are sheep among wolves the Word of God also says,]

[1 Peter 5:8-9 ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.]

[The devil has a definite method that he uses to trap, persecute, and if possible devour those who belong to God. The devil's method is relentless, diabolical, deceptive, ultimately destructive, and predictable.]

[The method that the devil uses to persecute the people of God is predictable and revealed in the Word of God. All we have to do is study the Word of God, this King James Bible, and we will find and discover the devil's diabolical wiles or methods.]

When Persecution Arises There Will Be,

A. Simmering Spite (vs 3-4) [*– Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. ⁴ Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. - All who are in leadership, beware, our adversary the devil is at work in the hearts and minds of those you lead. He stirs within them, working envy in their thoughts and hearts. Those who you think are serving you well may very well be plotting against you. They see your authority and they feel that authority ought to be theirs.]*

Gal 5.19

[This is part of the method of our adversary the Devil. He causes a deep seated **simmering spite** to brew in those who are under authority, especially if they are under the authority of a God fearing leader.]

[Now, there has been Simmering Spite between Born Again Christians and the Gay Community (LGBT) for a long time. There are those who are homosexual and yet claim to be Christian.]

[Someone might ask, **“Is it possible to be homosexual and Christian at the same time?”** I saw a post on face book that stated, “Many of these Gay people love Jesus too. So, don't be so quick to cast the first stone.”]

[First, I would be quick to say, no one is casting stones at anyone today. To know the difference between good and evil, right and wrong, truth and deception is not casting stones it is instead to know and stand on the authority of the Unchanging Word of God. It is scriptural and spiritual discernment to know the difference between right and wrong as established by God.]

[**The Word of God declares homosexuality and every other sexual immorality an abominable sin** (Lev 18.22; 20.13; Rom 1.26-27; 1 Cor 6.9; 1 Tim 1.10; Jude 1.7)]

*[Galatians 5:19-21 ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; **Adultery, fornication, uncleanness**, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, **that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**]*

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When Persecution Arises There Will Be,

A. Simmering Spite

[Similarly,]

*[1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: **neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,** ¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, **shall inherit the kingdom of God.**]*

[Now, what these Scriptures are clearly saying is that those who are living in these sinful lifestyles reveal that they are lost and not saved. **They will NOT inherit the kingdom of God. Not ever!]**

[Now the answer to these condemned sinful lifestyles is given in this text. It goes on to say,]

*[¹¹ **And such were some of you:** but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.]*

[When a person **REPENTS and responds to the Lord Jesus Christ then there is a transformation in their heart, mind and life and they change from their sinful ways and start to live a life that honors the Lord Jesus Christ.]**

[You cannot live in continuous, rebellious sin and somehow think that you are saved and born again.]

[Now my focus this morning is not on Sexual Immorality but on the persecution that the sinful and wicked will bring against those who truly belong to our Lord Jesus Christ. Daniel is a great and revealing example of what that persecution will look like.]

[The first thing that will be present is a **Simmering Spite between those who are living for God and those who belong to the devil and his earthly kingdom.]**

B. A Sinister Suggestion (vs 4-5) [- ⁴ Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. ⁵ Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God. – Now notice how these princes and rulers in the Mede-Persian Empire conspired to entrap Daniel. They started looking for some way to bring an occasion against Daniel.]

[But as they looked all they say was a man who was faithful and true in his service to the king and in his service and devotion to his God. Hence, it ought to be for Christians, they should be the best and most faithful employees in the nation. Born Again Christians must be,]

<p>Biblical Persecution Daniel 6</p> <p>When Persecution Arises There Will Be,</p> <p>A. Simmering Spite B. Sinister Suggestion</p>

- [Honest]
- [Of the highest integrity]
- [Hard Workers]
- [Faithful]
- [Kind]
- [Compassionate]

[Daniel 6:4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.]

[So look at their Sinister Suggestion,]

[Daniel 6:5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.]

[Now, just as there was a sinister conspiracy against Daniel, so there was a sinister conspiracy against Kim Davis by the Gay Community. How do I know this? Because at least one of those gay couples was from Ohio and drove through who knows how many counties to get down to the one county in Kentucky where there was a clerk was not issuing marriage licenses to homosexuals.]

[The similarities to Daniels in our text are more than striking and obvious.]

C. A Stupefying Statute (vs 6-9; Prov 16.18) [- *Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever. ⁷ All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, **have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.***]

[Consider how stupefying this new statute was. **That no one should pray to any other god but to the king.** Did the king really believe he was a god? How utterly ridiculous? It was the encouragement of subtle and wicked princes that encourage the king to look at himself more highly than he should have.]

[When the Authority of a Nation thinks that they are the ultimate Authority in life, then all wisdom has been thrown to the wind.]

[Whenever someone starts to stroke your pride, be careful, watch out,]

[Proverbs 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.]

[⁸ Now, **O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed,** according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.]

[What drove the king to sign this ridiculous statute into law? His vile pride and his failure to think it through.]

[Daniel 6:9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.]

[Just as King Darius, through his supposed trusted princes was falsely led to believe that he was the ultimate Authority for his nation, **so the United States Supreme Court has falsely presumed that they are the ultimate Authority for the United States of America.** There are many citizens in America that are acting just like these wicked princes did with King Darius. These are false, evil counselors.]

[First of all, the ultimate Authority in all of life is Almighty God, and our founding Fathers undeniably saw it that way. They declared it so on many occasions.]

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- B. A Sinister Suggestion**
- C. A Stupefying Statute**

[Secondly, and of secondary priority to God, the Supreme Court is not Supreme. They are one of three equal powers in America.]

[So, as it was with Daniel an unjust statute was made law. So it is with Kim Davis, an unjust declaration has been assumed to be law.]

[Just so you know, whenever a law is established that places our nation or its people above God, for every born again Christian that will be an unjust law.]

D. The Steadfast Saint (vs 10) [*– Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. –* Notice what Daniel did in our text.]

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- [Daniel Did Not Resign His Position]
- [Daniel Did Not Stop Praying In Obedience To Almighty God.]
- [Daniel Made His Obedience to God Known]

[Notice, that whereas Daniel had prayed previously in private, because that is the highest and truest form of prayer. Now, Daniel swung open his windows and allowed all to see him pray to Almighty-God **so that there would be no doubt about Daniel's allegiance to God.**]

[Now, some might suggest that Daniel was stirring up trouble. Why couldn't Daniel just keep his windows closed as he had previously? **Because the whole world needed to know that Daniel would be a Steadfast Saint first, faithful to Almighty-God above all others.**]

[Christian, how should you respond when the devil's persecution comes your way? Just as Daniel did, just as Kim Davis did, just as countless persecuted Christians have before you. You stand steadfast and faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ, by standing upon The Unchanging Word of God.]

E. The Supernatural Salvation (vs 16-17; 18-21; Mark 8.34-38) [*–¹⁶ Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, **Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.**¹⁷ And a stone was brought, and laid upon the*

mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.]

[Now, King Darius came quickly to his senses, he realized that he had made a tragic mistake.

Not all governments come to this sobering realization. Many Kings and Queens have persecuted the people of God and never came to their senses. As a result millions upon millions of God's people have died martyrs deaths through the ages. Sometimes governments realize their errors and repent. I hope America does.]

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- E. The Supernatural Salvation**

[Notice what happens next,]

[Daniel 6:18-22 ¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him. ¹⁹ Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. ²⁰ And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? ²¹ Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. ²² My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.]

[Daniel 6:23 Then was the king exceeding 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 manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.]

Mark 8.34

[Sometimes God's People are delivered from their persecutors. Understand that in this world's corrupt, mortal perspective not all persecuted Christians are delivered. Some are Supernaturally Saved. Others die martyrs deaths. But from heavens perspective all who are persecuted and stand, even unto death, are supernaturally saved and greatly rewarded.]

[Mark 8:34-38 ³⁴ And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same

shall save it. ³⁶ For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? ³⁷ Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.]

F. The Sobering Switch (vs 24; Rom 12.19; Heb

10.31) [– And the king commanded, **and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions**, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.]

[If anyone thinks that those who would persecute the people of God will go untouched, think again. The Word of God declares,]

[Romans 10:19 But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.]

[Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.]

[If you are a Born Again Christian and you believe the Word of God, then you should be able to see how the case of Kim Davis lines up step-by-step with the religious persecution revealed in the case of Daniel and the Lions Den.]

[So what should we American Christians do now that we see clearly that Biblical Persecution has occurred in the United States of America?]

[We must end our silence and we must call our representatives and stand up for our Lord Jesus Christ. We have the right and duty to protect and defend our religious liberties.]

[We must also remind America that there is a God on High, our Lord Jesus Christ and He is our supreme authority. Any laws put in place in America that would cause Christians to choose between our God and our country will result in us standing with our Lord Jesus Christ first.]

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[What will you choose, Almighty God and the Lord Jesus Christ or the United States of America? It is sad to think that anyone would ever have to make such a choice.]

[Kim Davis did. Who will be next?]

[Don't stand on the wrong side of this cultural war that is placing our beloved country in opposition to Almighty-God. If you are not a born again Christian you need the Lord Jesus Christ today.]

[CrossRoads Baptist Church, Sept 13, 2015]

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