



# When the Law of Man Conflicts with the Law of God

Daniel Chapter 6

Ron Peri

# Roberts joins court's liberals to deny California church's lockdown challenge

By [JOSH GERSTEIN](#), **Politico** 05/30/2020 01:16 AM EDT

A sharply divided Supreme Court has turned aside a church's urgent plea that California's coronavirus lockdown orders are putting an unconstitutional burden on religious freedom.

Chief Justice John Roberts sided with the court's liberals in rejecting a San Diego church's request for relief from Gov. Gavin Newsom's most recent directive limiting churches to 25 percent of their normal maximum capacity, with an absolute maximum of 100 people at any service.

[Justice] Brett Kavanaugh...said the California policy "indisputably discriminates against religion."



# Freedom of Religion is Eroding

- The Pilgrims came to the American continent because their beliefs conflicted with the laws of England
- America has had tremendous religious freedom for centuries and has had these rights embedded in the Constitution
- Today, we are again seeing conflict between our Christian faith and the government, but there are no new continents to move to.
- How should a Christian respond when we are told we cannot do what God calls us to do?



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A blue ribbon graphic with a 3D effect, featuring a dark blue shadow on the left side. The text "Daniel Chapter 6" is centered on the ribbon in white. 

# Daniel Chapter 6



# Conflict and Response

- The Conflict: “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... So King Darius put the decree in writing.”
- Daniel’s response: “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.”



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A blue ribbon graphic with a 3D effect, featuring a lighter blue top surface and a darker blue bottom surface, framing the text on the left side.

# Typical 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christian Responses

# Peace and Harmony



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I agree that the law is valid. After all, this is a pluralistic society. There are Medes and Persians and Babylonians and Jews. They all have their own gods to worship. I don't want to make waves. I can see their point we need to live together in harmony I'll just pray quietly.

# Umbrella Response

I disagree with the law but I do agree that the King has the authority in this area. I am under the umbrella of the King's authority. God has placed the King over me so as to guide me. I'll pray silently that the King would change his mind.



# Secret Service Response

I disagree with the law and I'm convinced that the King doesn't have authority, but I am unwilling to resist. I will pray in private. I will close the doors and lock the windows.



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# Daniel's Open Window Response

Daniel opened the windows and prayed as loudly as he could. He was not at all anxious to avoid confrontation. He had no fear . He wanted everyone to be certain to know that Daniel's God was not about to go into hiding.





# Peter and John before the Sanhedrin – Acts 4

They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?”

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”



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# The Sanhedrin's Command

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus...But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.



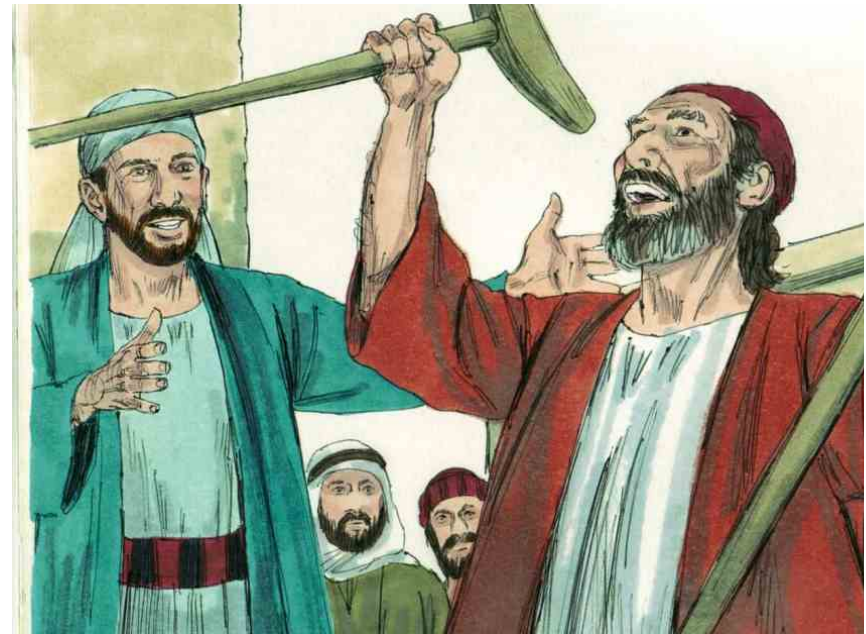
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# Peter and John's Response and Release

Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.



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# Hebrews 11 – Victors through Faith

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Heb 11:32-35



# Some Suffered for Their Faith for Greater Reward

There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. Heb 11:35-38

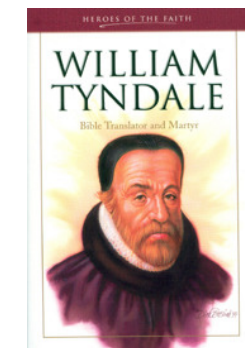
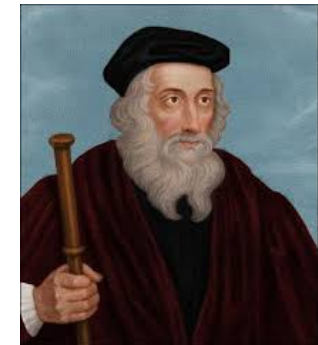


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# There are Risks When You Stand for God

- John Wycliff
- William Tyndale
- Daniel knew he could be convicted and thrown into the lion's den. He had seen his three friends thrown into the fiery furnace. But what is the alternative to resistance?
- Acquiescence.



# Silence is not Golden

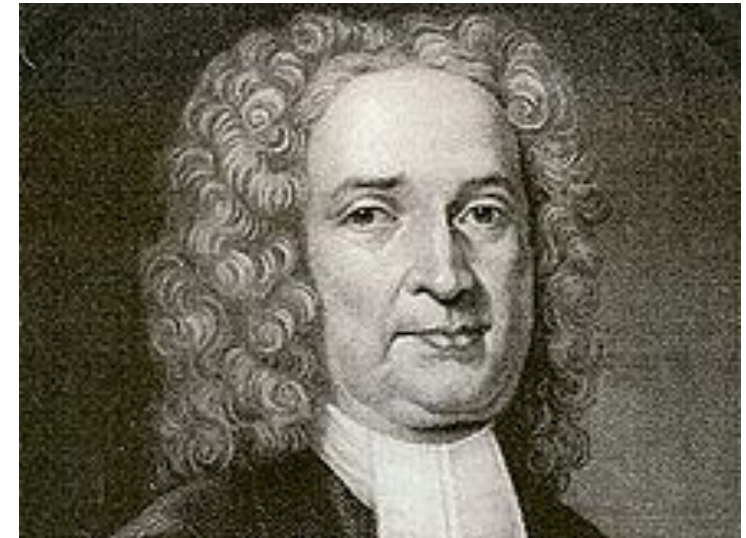
C. S. Lewis – “As Christians we are tempted to make unnecessary concessions to those outside the faith. We give in too much... We must show our Christian colors if we are to be true to Jesus Christ. We cannot remain silent and concede everything away.”

Brother Andrew – “The first principle for any Christian work is this: The Lord Jesus Christ, who crushed Satan and conquered death commands us to invade this enemy-occupied world and reclaim it for God. We March under his exclusive authority and are forbidden to make any deals with the foe. No compromises. No concessions. And no excuses!”



# Roger Williams

It is because of Roger Williams that we have freedom of religion embedded in our constitution he laid out the pattern in the state of Rhode island. the government of Massachusetts was populated with the children of the pilgrims. They would not give to Roger Williams the religious freedom that their parents secured by coming here and so punished him for baptizing adults. Just as they had been persecuted, they persecuted Roger Williams. He was able to get his own charter and founded the state of Rhode Island without a state church providing a template for the First Amendment.



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# When you acquiesce, you invariably compromise.

Most seminaries in America no longer believe the Bible is inerrant. They slid down a slippery slope.

- William Penn – “ when God does not rule, tyranny will rule.”
- There are any number of issues on which Christians are asked to compromise for the sake of peace and to acquiesce to the government.
- Abortion
- Gender rights
- Euthanasia
- Keeping the churches closed or severely limited in the number of people who can assemble



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# A Warning from the Past

The words of Martin Niemöller, a German Lutheran Pastor spoken at the end of World War II:

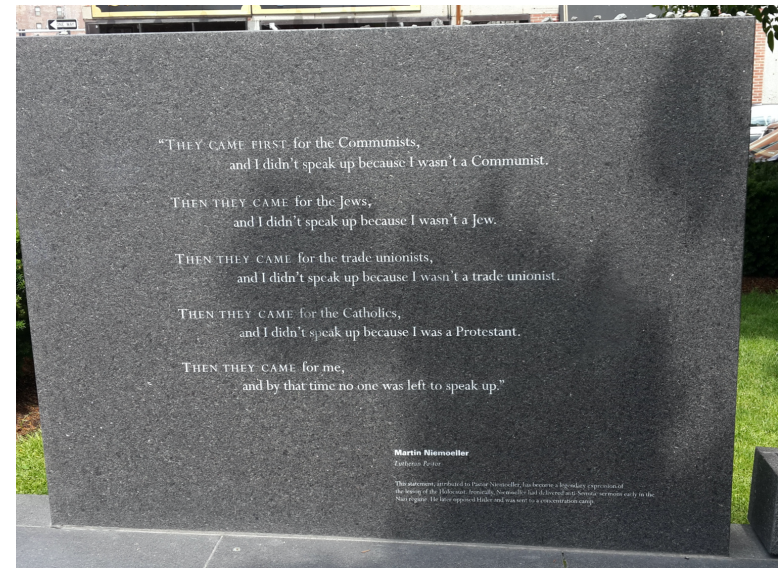
"They came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up."





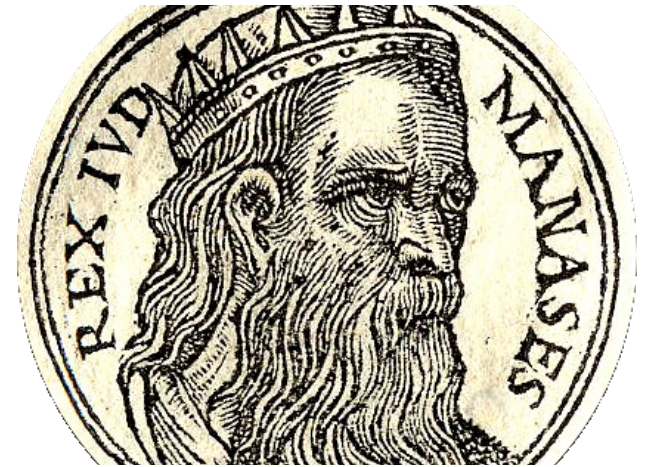
# Our Children Pay for our “Peace and Safety”

King Hezekiah was on his deathbed. He prayed that God would grant him peace in his day and extend his life.

Isaiah 38:1 says, “In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, ‘This is what the Lord says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover.’” Hezekiah “turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, ‘Remember, O Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.’ And Hezekiah wept bitterly.”

Isaiah had already left Hezekiah but God suddenly spoke to him, telling him to return and tell Hezekiah the following... “I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the kings of Assyria. I will defend this city.” (Isaiah 38:4-6 NIV)

But during that fifteen year period, Hezekiah fathered Manasseh, perhaps the wickedest of Judah’s kings.

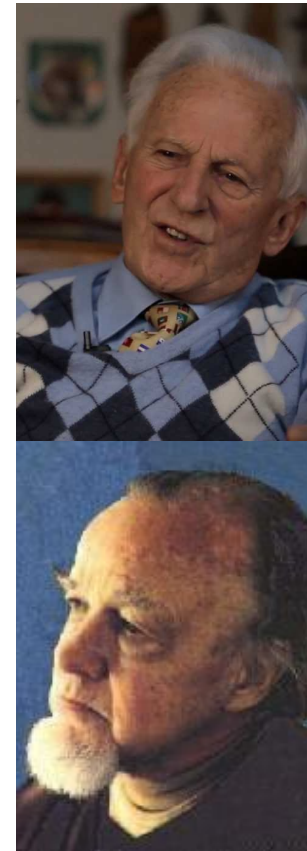


# Personal Peace, Affluence and Compromise

Brother Andrew writes: “Christians in the West or the silent majority, making no demands. spineless. colorless, passive individuals, we as the silent majority formed the bridge over which the world of corruption, revolution, and hatred passes unhindered. Passes over to corrode and cursed the lives of the rising generations . And in what we call democracy there is no force that can possibly stop it except the power of God.”

Francis Schaeffer concludes that “Ours is an age characterized by two basic values: personal peace and affluence. Thus we compromise almost anything to keep these values intact.

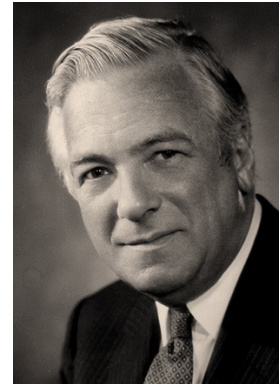
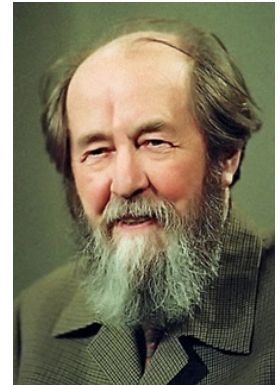
But Daniel opened his windows and prayed loudly...



# Faith Requires Action

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn speaks of how the Russian people would cower behind their doors and press their ears to the doors to listen when the KGB came at midnight to arrest a neighbor. He says that if the people would have come out and driven off the KGB, sheer public opinion would demoralize the effort to subdue a free people. But their own personal peace was more important.

John Whitehead states “if the state refuses, then Christians must put their faith to the test and stand and protest invasions of our sacred freedoms. A real faith results in works. And we who perceive the very real threat in the present situation must work diligently and quickly if we are to be the witnesses Christ has commanded us to be “



Daniel opened his window and prayed loudly...



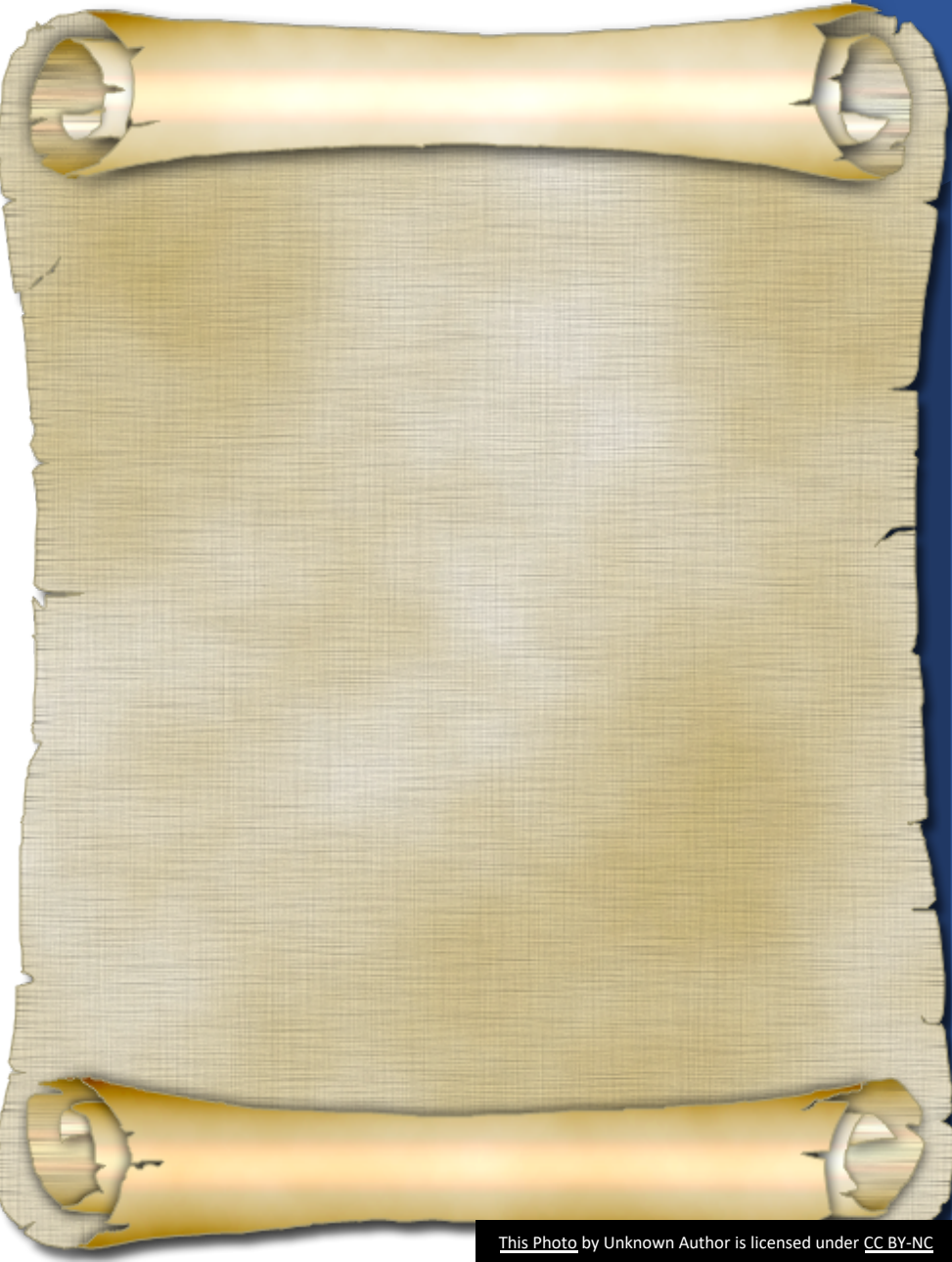


# Daniel's Faith was Rewarded

One fearless praying man saved a nation:

- “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.
- 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.
- Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth:





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# Darius Issued a 2<sup>nd</sup> Edict Overturning the 1st

Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth:

“May you prosper greatly! “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. 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.”

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





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# Can We Learn From History?

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, shortly after his exile from the Soviet Union , asked this question:

“Are we prepared to learn from the past? Are people living in freedom able to learn from those living in need? Can the lesson they have learned be taught to the free world? Yes it can. But who wants to learn? Our pride proud skyscrapers point heavenward and they say: ‘it will never happen here. But it will happen. The revolution will come. Tragically however the free West will only believe it when it is no longer free. To quote a Russian proverb “When it happens you will know it is true, but then it is too late

# But One Person Can Change Everything

- Daniel
  - Saved the nation of Israel from annihilation
- William Wilberforce
  - Ended slavery in Great Britain
- Telemachus
  - Ended the carnage of the gladiatorial games in the Roman Coliseum





# What Then Should We Do?

“Don’t curse the darkness,  
light a candle.”

“One man with God is a  
majority.”

Brother Andrew

