

## Daniel 6

### Daniel Serves Darius

It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, to be in charge of the whole kingdom, 2 and over them, three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), so that these satraps would be accountable to them, and that the king would not suffer loss. 3 Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king intended to appoint him over the entire kingdom.

4 Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel regarding government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, because he was trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him. 5 Then these men said, "We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him regarding the law of his God."

6 Then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows: "King Darius, live forever! 7 All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors, have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who offers a prayer to any god or person besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be thrown into the lions' den. 8 Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it will not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which [h] may not be revoked."

9 Thereupon, King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.

10 Now when Daniel learned that the document was signed, he entered his house (and in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and offering praise before his God, just as he had been doing previously. 11 Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel offering a prayer and imploring favor before his God.

12 Then they approached and spoke before the king about the king's injunction: "Did you not sign an injunction that any person who offers a prayer to any god or person besides you, O king, for thirty days, is to be thrown into the lions' den?" The king replied, "The statement is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked." 13 Then they responded and spoke before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps offering his prayer three times a day."

14 Then, as soon as the king heard this statement, he was deeply distressed, and set his mind on rescuing Daniel; and until sunset he kept exerting himself to save him. 15 Then these men came by

agreement to the king and said to the king, "Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

#### Daniel in the Lions' Den

16 Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and thrown into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "Your God whom you continually serve will Himself rescue you." 17 And a stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed regarding Daniel. 18 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him.

19 Then the king got up at dawn, at the break of day, and went in a hurry to the lions' den. 20 And when he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king began speaking and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you continually serve, been able to rescue you from the lions?" 21 Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, since I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime." 23 Then the king was very glad and gave orders for Daniel to be lifted up out of the den. So Daniel was lifted up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

24 The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they threw them, their children, and their wives into the lions' den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. 25 Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations, and populations of all languages who were living in all the land: "May your peace be great!

26 I issue a decree that in all the realm of my kingdom people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion will be forever. 27 He rescues, saves, and performs signs and miracles In heaven and on earth, He who has also rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." 28 So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you? Did anything confuse you? Did anything move you emotionally? Did God instruct you to do something? Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul Helpful insights

1. Darius sets up his new government leadership and he includes Daniel even though he was in his nineties.
2. Daniel is chosen as one of the three main leaders and rises even to the top.
3. Daniel has this extraordinary spirit in him. What is this extraordinary spirit?
4. Darius plans to exalt him above everyone else but this creates jealousy amongst the rest.
5. They are not going out without a fight and they attempt to incriminate Daniel within his governmental misdealing's but are unsuccessful because there are none!
6. Daniel has a life testimony that exalts God. Do we?
7. They looked for corruption and negligence within his character but they were not there!
8. They turn on him regarding his relationship with God.
9. It was Daniels diligence and faithfulness that would incriminate him with regards to a bona fide allegation.
10. The whole leadership present themselves and their plan to Darius, but Daniel is not amongst them.
11. They deceive Darius by giving him the impression they are speaking as one voice.
12. The preparation of their request to Darius begins with pompous, flattering praise.
13. They introduce a law into the kingdom knowing full well Daniel would not keep it.
14. For thirty days no one is to make a request to any God, other than the King, or they would be fed to the lions!
15. They want Darius to act in haste, the laws of the Medes and the Persians cannot be undone!
16. So the king, having been deceived, signed off the law, he is both the houses of parliament and the house of commons.
17. Daniel, knowing of the law, still chose to continue his worship to God. Was this the right thing to do?
18. He took no steps to disguise his religious practice, knowing full well of the implications.
19. Their plan had worked, Daniel is arrested and is sent into the lions den.
20. Darius realises his mistake, but the laws of the Medes and the Persians cannot be undone, despite his many attempts to save Daniel.
21. If Darius is king and law maker why couldn't he change the law for his friend?
22. The allegation was Daniel broke the law and pays no attention to the king.
23. Notice, when Daniel was praying and making his request to God he asked three times each day. Why three times?
24. Darius is deeply upset but is still not able to rescue Daniel.

25. If a law is broken it is right to pursue justice. Is that true?
26. There was no final reprieve and the king allows the execution of Daniel to go ahead.
27. Darius, even though he is not a Jew, steps out in faith and sends his faith off to work. His parting statement to Daniel, that God would safeguard Daniel and escape the lions – the kings seal on the entrance so Daniel can't escape.
28. Darius reveals his genuine love for Daniel and spends the night in prayer and fasting. Why do we pray and fast?
29. Daniel, having spent the night and day in the lions den, the king goes and seeks the news of his safety, but long before he reaches the lions den he shouts out to Daniel 'servant of the living God, has your God delivered you?
30. Daniel responds to Darius 'yes the Lord shut the mouth of the lion from eating me'. He declares his own innocence, he declares he committed no crime – was that actually true?
31. Daniel was released from the lions den, but the lions are still hungry!
32. He was delivered because he trusted in his God to deliver him, but what of those who are not delivered? What lessons can we learn?
33. Darius avenges Daniel and the difficult situation he has put him in.
34. He throws them and all their families into the den to be eaten and killed by the lions.
35. Before they hit the bottom of the den their bodies are torn to pieces

Darius