



Daniel in the Lion's Den

Daniel Chapter 6

Daniel in the Lion's Den

- ◆ one of the most famous stories of the entire Bible
- ◆ many teach that Daniel is a fairy tale, written many years after the events of the book of Daniel
- ◆ Christ calls him a prophet — Matthew 24:15

Daniel 6:1-4

- ◆ It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;
- ◆ 2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Daniel 6:1-4

- ◆ 3 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.

- ◆ the new ruler wants to reorganize the government to establish his authority
- ◆ to carry this out, he set up 120 princes and three presidents
- ◆ he set up Daniel as the chief president over all of the presidents and princes
- ◆ Daniel would have been in his mid-upper 80's
- ◆ his reputation went with him throughout his whole life while in Babylon
 - ◆ first, Babylon; now, Persia
- ◆ v. 3 "excellent spirit was in him" — he had a reputation for honesty and wisdom

- ◆ when the other leaders heard about Darius wanting to put him over all the kingdom they became envious
- ◆ they were irritated
- ◆ they wanted to find something wrong in Daniel, a flaw, but they could not
- ◆ they knew that they couldn't continue on robbing the ruler of his riches if Daniel was in charge - so they had to find a way to get rid of him
- ◆ the only way was to come against his religion, his strong point
- ◆ Satan will attack in your weak points, but when he sees you won't succumb, he'll hit you where you're strongest

- ◆ notice they couldn't find any fault with Daniel - not one of the 120
- ◆ what a report!
- ◆ what would they say about us if they tried to plot something against us
- ◆ are we guilty of being Christians?

Daniel 6:5-11

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 6 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.

Daniel 6:5-11

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

- ◆ his character was impeccable
 - ◆ the officers couldn't make him do anything illegal but they could make a religious practice of his illegal
- ◆ everyone knew he was a man of prayer
- ◆ he prayed three times a day from his home with his windows open towards Jerusalem
- ◆ if they could get the king to make prayer illegal then they could get rid of Daniel

- ◆ Darius was probably impressed that 122 of his officers came to present him with this plan
- ◆ who's missing? the chief administrator — Daniel

- ◆ they gave Darius the impression that they were all on the same page, united together
- ◆ when someone comes to tell you that all are in agreement with something, be sure to check behind them before you agree
- ◆ what a better way to unite the kingdom than to get the Babylonians to see Darius as a supreme god for 30 days — they're flattery fed his pride
- ◆ anyone who didn't obey would be thrown into the den of lions
- ◆ once the law was signed it could not be nullified (Esther 1:19)
- ◆ Darius had put Daniel in peril

- ◆ how does Daniel react?
- ◆ he prayed with his windows open!

- ◆ Daniel prayed at evening, morning and noon
 - ◆ Psalm 55:17 — Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.
- ◆ Daniel was a man of prayer and he was interceding for his people and asking God to deliver them (see Dan. 9)
- ◆ the plot against Daniel was, in reality, a plot against the whole Jewish nation - just like the plot in Esther
- ◆ this was a Satanic plan to destroy the Jews

- ◆ if Daniel hadn't been faithful and courageous, he could have compromised his faith and found reasons not to pray
- ◆ he may would have closed the windows
- ◆ he may would have prayed silently
- ◆ he may would have left the city to pray
- ◆ that would have been unbelief and cowardice
- ◆ when we fear the Lord we need not fear anyone else
 - ◆ Acts 5:29 — We ought to obey God rather than men

Daniel 6:12-13

- ◆ 12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Daniel 6:12-13

- ◆ 13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

Daniel 6:14-18

- ◆ 14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.
- ◆ 15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.
- ◆ 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.

Daniel 6:14-18

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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.

- ◆ Darius tried his hardest to keep Daniel from being executed but to no avail
- ◆ since he was a “god” in the eyes of the people, and since they were praying to him, he couldn’t not punish someone for not obeying him
- ◆ he could not undo his edict
 - ◆ also, his princes were by his side reminding him of his decree
- ◆ at the end of the day he had to call Daniel to the lion’s den
 - ◆ he tries to encourage Daniel in v. 16 — Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee

Lion's Den

- ◆ a large pit divided by a moveable wall that could be pulled up to allow the lions to go from one side to the other. The keeper would put food in the empty side and lift the wall so the lions would cross over and eat. He would quickly lower the wall and clean the safe side of the pit. The animals weren't fed often or great amounts of food so that their appetites would be keen in case there was to be an execution.

- ◆ Darius had a bad night — worse than Daniel did
- ◆ he fasted and he didn't want his nightly entertainment
- ◆ he spent the night wondering if the Lord would deliver him

Daniel 6:19-23

- ◆ 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.

Daniel 6:19-23

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 23 Then was the king exceedingly 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.

- ◆ Hebrews 11:33 — Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.
- ◆ Daniel was quick to give God the glory
 - ◆ he never sought the glory but always gave it to God

- ◆ God uses angels

- ◆ Psalms 34:7 — The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.
- ◆ Psalm 91:11 — For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways
- ◆ Mark 1:13 — And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him
- ◆ Luke 22:43 — And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him

- ◆ we don't always know when angels are with us
 - ◆ Heb 13:2 — Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.
- ◆ we know they're sent by God to assist us
 - ◆ Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

- ◆ the Lord delivered Daniel because of his faith (6:23) and because he was innocent of any crime before Darius or any sin before the Lord
- ◆ God's servants are immortal until their work is done (Wiersbe)

- ◆ this night of confinement for Daniel ended in a morning of glory and deliverance
- ◆ Psalm 30:5b — weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.
- ◆ God could have prevented Daniel from going to the lions' den but by allowing it and bringing him through unhurt, He received the greater glory

Daniel 6:24

- ◆ 24 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

- ◆ the men who had accused Daniel were thrown into the fire with their families
- ◆ Prov 11:8 — The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead
- ◆ the only exception to this law was when Jesus Christ the Righteous One took the place of the guilty sinners when He died for them on the cross
- ◆ 1 Peter 3:18 — For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit

- ◆ Proverbs 26:27 — Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.
- ◆ Pharaoh ordered the Hebrew male babies destroyed in Egypt and at Passover, all the Egyptian firstborn died
- ◆ He commanded the newborn Jewish babies to be drowned in the Nile River, and his own army was drowned in the Red Sea
- ◆ Haman tried to destroy the Jewish nation and ended up being hanged on the gallows he had made for Mordecai
- ◆ if sinners aren't judged in this life they will be after they die (Heb 9:27)

Daniel 6:25-27

- ◆ 25 Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.
- ◆ 26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.
- ◆ 27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

- ◆ Darius' first decree was that he was god
- ◆ his second decree was that the God of the Hebrews was the true and living God
- ◆ Darius joined Nebuchadnezzar by giving public testimony to the power and glory of the true and living God
- ◆ these decrees showed the Gentiles that there was only One, True God and it reminded the Jews that God was still on the throne
- ◆ by rescuing Daniel from the lions, God received greater glory

Daniel 6:28

- ◆ 28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

- ◆ Message for us today:
- ◆ for those being attacked by the enemy and suffering because of their righteous stand for the Lord...
- ◆ whether we face the fiery furnace or the roaring lion, we are in the Lord's care and He will work out His divine purpose for His glory.
- ◆ 1 Peter 5:7 — Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you

◆ Lessons:

- ◆ He is with us in persecution
- ◆ God is faithful
- ◆ Obeying God is better than man
- ◆ Reward of separating ourselves to seek God
- ◆ God is greater than any trial
 - ◆ 1 Chronicles 22:13b - Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid or lose heart!