

# Daniel 6

## Daniel & the Lion's Den



**Daniel Refuses to Obey the King's Law & is Sentenced to Death**

# Daniel 6 Overview

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- This is one of the most famous Bible stories, along with chapters 3 & 6:
  - **Chapter 6 – Lions Den**
- After the writing on the wall and end of the Babylonian empire, Daniel is now made a senior person in the Darius government
- As in hundreds of Old Testament passages, here we see a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ
  - The imagination and hearts of readers are gripped by the injustice and cruelty of seeing a beloved 80-year old man of God, set up in a lie and then thrown into lion's den
  - Readers are then left in awe and admiration at the convictions and courage of Daniel to show no fear to defy the king's orders.
  - The miracle of God's deliverance is captivating to children and adults alike since everyone's greatest fear would be to face a hungry lion, yet an Angel from heaven would keep them tame.

# Daniel 6 Overview

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- We have been fortunate to live our lives in a country that valued civil liberties where we can pray anywhere and read the Bible, but suppose there is only place in the world to pray and read the Word? – what would you sacrifice to get there?
- Daniel did not even deliberate about what to do – he decided immediately
- Daniel did not alter one thing or attempt to conceal the fact he was praying – he had no anxiety and steadfast composure.
- Any law of man that infringes the law of God should be ignored.
- Should a person try and protect his life to be prudent? Mark 8:36-38

# Daniel 5: 28

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After the writing on the wall in Chapter 5, the Babylonian empire came to an end when King Cyrus & his regional king Darius of the Medo-Persian empire took over Babylon.

## Daniel 5:28

<sup>30</sup> That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain, <sup>31</sup> and **Darius the Mede** took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.

# Daniel 6: 1-3

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- It pleased **Darius** to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom;
- <sup>2</sup> and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel *was* one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss.
- <sup>3</sup> Then this **Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him**; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.

Daniel was great because he was filled with the Spirit

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**Daniel 1:20** “In every matter of wisdom and understanding..., he found them ten times better than all the...”

# Daniel & Historical Records Confirm Reign of King Cyrus

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## Daniel 6:28

<sup>28</sup> So Daniel prospered during the reign of **Darius** and the reign of **Cyrus** the Persian.

## Daniel 10:1

In the third year of **Cyrus** king of Persia, a **revelation was given to Daniel**. Its message was true and it **concerned a great war**.

# Daniel 6: 4-5

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- <sup>4</sup> So the governors and satraps sought to find *some* charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, **because he *was* faithful**; nor was there any error or fault found in him.
- <sup>5</sup> Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we **find *it* against him concerning the law of his God.**”

**Conspiracy**

**Foreshadow of Herod,  
Pilate & the Jewish  
Conspiracy to Kill  
Jesus**

# Daniel 6: 6-9

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<sup>6</sup> So these **governors and satraps thronged before the king**, and said thus to him: **“King Darius, live forever!**

The King falls  
to their  
flattery –  
Vanity

<sup>7</sup> All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, **that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.**

They wanted  
Daniel dead,  
not just  
removed  
from office



# Daniel 6: 10

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- <sup>8</sup> Now, O king, establish the decree and **sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians,** which does not alter.” <sup>9</sup> Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

**Additional evidence to the authenticity of Daniel** since this was a unique law to the Medes and Persians.

**The King could not change his own law easily, yet in other empires Kings did not have this restriction.**

# Daniel 6: 10

- <sup>10</sup> Now when **Daniel knew** that the writing was signed, he went home.
- And in his upper room,  
**with his windows open**
- toward **Jerusalem**,
- he knelt down on his **knees**
- **three times** that day,
- and **prayed and gave thanks** before his God, as was his custom since early days.

**Daring & Defiant -**  
Daniel did not  
alter anything of  
his lifestyle

**A Public Testimony**  
to show the Glory  
of God



## Scripture on Praying facing Jerusalem

- 2 Chronicles 6:34-39
- 1 Kings 8:35-36, 44, 48
- Psalm 5:7, 28:2, 138:2
- Jonah 2:4
- The Talmud instructs Jews outside the Land of Israel to face the Holy Land while praying; Jews residing in Israel should turn towards the city of Jerusalem; those living within Jerusalem should face the Temple Mount.

## Praying on Knees

- Psalms 55:17-18; 95:6
- 1 Kings 8:54
- Isaiah 45:23
- Jesus in Garden of Gethsemane
- Used for extra emphasis

## Daniel may have Prayed

Psalm 57:4

21" **"My soul is among lions"**

Psalm 22:21

21" **"Save me from the lion's mouth"**

# Daniel 6: 11-12

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**11 Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.**

**12 And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, 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 does not alter."

Daniel was not required to pray and worship the king, he was only required to not worship anyone except the king for 30 days. Seems like an easy request?

# Daniel 6: 13-15

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<sup>13</sup> So they answered and said before the king, “That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.”

<sup>14</sup> **And the king, when he heard *these* words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set *his* heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.** <sup>15</sup> Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, “Know, O king, that *it is* the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed.”

# Daniel 6: 16-17

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<sup>16</sup> So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and **cast *him* into the den of lions.** *But* the king spoke, saying to Daniel, “**Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.**”

<sup>17</sup> Then **a stone** was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the **king sealed it** with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

The King shows that he has **FAITH** in Daniel's God

Stone is a **Foreshadow of Christ's Burial**

# Daniel 6: 18-20

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<sup>18</sup> Now the king went to his palace and spent the night **fasting**; and **no musicians** were brought before him. Also his **sleep went from him**.

<sup>19</sup> Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. **(Like the Mary's did at the tomb of Jesus)**

<sup>20</sup> And when he came to the den, **he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel**. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

# Daniel 6: 21-23

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<sup>21</sup> Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup> My **God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths**, so that they have not hurt me, **because I was found innocent** before Him; and also, O king, **I have done no wrong** before you.”

<sup>23</sup> Now **the king was 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 injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.**



# Daniel 6: 24

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<sup>24</sup> And the king gave the command, and **they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast *them* into the den of lions**—them, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.

**Romans 6:23**

The penalty of sin is death...

# Daniel 6: 25-26

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<sup>25</sup> Then King Darius wrote:

To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth:

Peace be multiplied to you.

<sup>26</sup> **I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom *men must* tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.**

**Proverbs 21:1**

**21** The king's heart *is* in the hand of the LORD,  
*Like* the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

# Daniel 6: 26-28

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**For He *is* the living God,**

**And steadfast forever;**

**His kingdom *is the one* which shall not be destroyed,**

**And His dominion *shall endure* to the end.**

**<sup>27</sup> He delivers and rescues,**

And He works signs and wonders

In heaven and on earth,

Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

**<sup>28</sup> So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.**

# Daniel – What a Witness!

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**The Satraps knew Daniel would not obey the Law.**

**The King knew this too, but he overlooked it.**

**What a testimony to know that the man of God can be counted on!**

**Can you be counted on to do the right thing when the chips are down?**

**Pray to God for courage and conviction.**

## Daniel's Faithfulness is Compared to Noah & Job / Judgement is Inevitable / Principle of Individual Responsibility

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**Ezekiel 14** <sup>12</sup> The word of the LORD came again to me, saying: <sup>13</sup> “Son of man, **when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it.** <sup>14</sup> Even *if* these three men, **Noah, Daniel, and Job**, were in it, they would deliver *only* themselves by their righteousness,” says the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> “If I cause wild beasts to pass through the land, and they empty it, and make it so desolate that no man may pass through because of the beasts, <sup>16</sup> *even though* **these three men** were in it, *as I live,*” says the Lord GOD, “**they would deliver neither sons nor daughters; only they would be delivered,** and the land would be desolate.

<sup>17</sup> “Or *if* I bring a sword on that land, and say, ‘Sword, go through the land,’ and I cut off man and beast from it, <sup>18</sup> *even though* **these three men** were in it, *as I live,*” says the Lord GOD, “**they would deliver neither sons nor daughters, but only they themselves would be delivered.**”

<sup>19</sup> “Or *if* I send a pestilence into that land and pour out My fury on it in blood, and cut off from it man and beast, <sup>20</sup> *even though* **Noah, Daniel, and Job** were in it, *as I live,*” says the Lord GOD, “**they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver *only* themselves by their righteousness.**”

# Peter Alludes to Daniel in Teaching on Christian Suffering

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## 1 Peter 4: 12-14

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, **do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you**, as though some strange thing happened to you;

<sup>13</sup> **but rejoice** to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

<sup>14</sup> **If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.** On their part He is blasphemed, **but on your part He is glorified.**

# Questions

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1. What can we learn from Daniel about to live faithfully in a culture that opposes God?
2. Have you ever had evil people try to trap (like they did to Daniel) you because of your faith in Jesus Christ?
3. Why do evil people throughout history continually oppose and persecute followers of Christ? (think Genesis 3:15)
4. Would Christians today think that it's better to just obey the government for just 30 days (15 days to flatten the curve), or if you must pray (not wear a mask), do it where no one can see to preserve your life and respect authority? After all, he wasn't required to worship the king ("the vaccine is ok because we aren't required to worship the antichrist")
5. Daniel set the standard for a Christians who would hold public office. Why is it important for Christians to participate in state and local public offices?

# Questions

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6. Daniel had decided to go to the Lion's den many years earlier when in chapter 1, he "purposed in his heart not to defile himself". He counted the cost in advance. Have you?
  - What Jesus taught about counting the cost of following Him:  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/count-the-cost.html>
7. How can we prepare now for when opposition will come?
8. Have you thought about which convictions you hold to be non-negotiable truths that would not waver on?
  - List some of the societal pressures to conform and believe in certain laws that oppose God and a Christian's conscience.
  - Are you prepared to disobey government laws in situations where man's laws oppose God's laws?
8. What are other examples of the Biblical principal of being public, open and unashamed in our devotion and commitment to Jesus Christ?