

## Daniel--Daniel 6

### The Lion's Den

#### I. Additional Scriptures...

1. Daniel was trustworthy (v. 3), as were: 1> Joseph (Gen 39:6); 2> Moses (Num 12:7); 3> David (1 Sam 27:12); 4> Those supervising work on the temple (2 Chr 34:10-12); 5> Paul (1 Th 2:4).
2. Daniel put God first in his life (v. 10), as did: 1> Enoch (Gen 5:22-24); 2> Noah (Gen 6:9); 3> Joshua (Josh 24:15); 4> Hezekiah (2 Kgs 20:3).
3. Daniel was prayerful (v. 10), as were: 1> Hannah (1 Sam 1:20); 2> Elijah (Js 5:17-18); 3> Nehemiah (Neh 1:4); 4> Jesus (Lk 5:16; Heb 5:7); 5> The early church (Acts 2:42; 6:4; 12:5).

#### II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Babylonian Captivity.** Daniel is likely in his early eighties.

#### III. Summary.

Darius now reigns in Babylon and he set 120 princes over the kingdom under three presidents. One of these presidents was Daniel. The excellence of Daniel's service was noticed by Darius and he decided to place even the other two presidents under Daniel. This led to an evil plot by the other jealous leaders to get rid of Daniel, however the conclusion was quickly reached that the only way they could get Daniel in trouble was through his dedication to God. The presidents and princes tricked Darius into making a decree that for a 30-day period no man could ask a petition of any god or man except Darius. Anyone who did so would be thrown into a den of lions. This signed document would become part of the law of the Medes and Persians, which could not be changed.

Of course Daniel continued his practice of praying three times each day to God even though he was aware of the new decree. He was observed doing so and it was brought before the king. Though Darius was greatly upset by the consequences of this new edict, he was forced into enforcing it and Daniel was cast into the den of lions. The next morning, after a sleepless night, Darius called out to Daniel and was delighted to hear a response. Daniel's God had saved him from the lions. Those who accused Daniel were then thrown to the lions and destroyed. King Darius made a decree that all men should tremble before and fear Daniel's God.

#### IV. Outline.

1. Daniel is given a favored position under King Darius and this creates jealousy among other leaders (1-3).
2. The plotters know how they will have to attack Daniel (4-5).
3. A new decree is signed into law making it illegal to petition any god or man but Darius (6-9).
4. Daniel continued his practice of praying to God and was observed (10-11).
5. Darius is told about Daniel's prayer and, reluctantly, has to enforce the law (12-16).
6. The den of lions was sealed after Daniel was inside (17).
7. The king spent a restless night and then calls to Daniel the next day (18-20).
8. Daniel's God has protected him from the lions (21-23).
9. Darius punishes the plotters and praises Daniel's God (24-28).

## V. Questions.

**True or False**

01. \_\_\_\_\_ Darius had plans to set Daniel over the whole realm of Babylon.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ The word “prospered” was used to describe Daniel’s life under Darius and Cyrus.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ The law of the Medes and Persians could not be changed.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel was not aware of the new law against prayer to anyone but Darius.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ Darius wanted to deliver Daniel from the punishment of the lion’s den.

**Who Am I? Who Did it? Who Said it?**

06. \_\_\_\_\_ “... for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed...”
07. \_\_\_\_\_ Cried with a lamentable voice.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ Kneeled to pray at windows toward Jerusalem.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred above the other princes and presidents.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ “Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.”

**Fill in the Blanks**

11. Genesis \_\_:6 “And he left all that he had in \_\_\_\_\_ hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And \_\_\_\_\_ was a goodly person, and well favoured.”
12. 1 Sam 1:\_\_\_ “Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after \_\_\_\_\_ had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name \_\_\_\_\_, saying, Because I have \_\_\_\_\_ him of the LORD.”
13. Daniel prayed to God \_\_\_\_\_ times each \_\_\_\_\_.
14. “My God hath sent his angel, and hath \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”
15. “Know, O king, that the law of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be \_\_\_\_\_.”

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

Answers will be given on next week’s handout

**ANSWERS to Lesson 01-18..** [01--True, 1-3, 37; 02--True, 19; 03--True, 29; 04--True, 33; 05-False, 26; 06--b, 3; 07--c, 27; 08--a, 30; 09--b, 27; 10--c, 28,33; 11--ruleth, 25; 12--presumptuously; 13--5, rash; 14--sure, 26; 15--5, sufficient.

## VI. Lessons &amp; Applications.

1. Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes because an excellent spirit was in him... (Dan 6:3). There was nothing Daniel did wrong that caused problems for him among his associates in the Babylonian government. He simply was excelling in handling the responsibilities delegated to him by the king. It was a matter of attitude with Daniel. His “spirit” was that he was going to serve God first and that so long as service to the government did not put him in conflict with the will of the Lord, he would give it his very best effort. He serves as a wonderful example for employees and workers everywhere. This principle is taught in the New Testament as Paul writes to “servants” and “masters” (we might more appropriately apply it as workers and bosses) in Ephesians 6:5-9. When these principles are applied in the work place, there will be peace and harmony and much can be accomplished. The word of God is the finest guidebook for relationships ever produced.

2. We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God (Daniel 6:5). This statement of those who had worked closely alongside Daniel gives evidence of Daniel's faithfulness to God. The only way they could get him in trouble was something to do with his faithfulness to God. What kind of impression are we making today on those who know us best?
3. King Darius, live for ever... (Daniel 6:6). Here is flattery at its worst. The concept of having every living soul so dependent upon the king that he could fulfill all needs--that no one should petition anyone but him--would have been quite an ego-booster to Darius. Those who suggested the new decree did not do so out of genuine respect for the king, but they had ulterior motives. It was a part of their trap for Daniel. They were good judges of human nature, knowing that it would be difficult for any king to resist the appeal of such a decree as they suggested. The king put himself through a torturous night because of the acceptance of this flattery (vv., 18-20). King Darius learned that flattery leads to problems. Let us learn that both for the one who uses it and the one who receives it, no good can come of flattery.
4. ...according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not (Daniel 6:8). Each of the world empires that led up to the establishment of the eternal kingdom of Daniel 2:44 (the church) contributed something to cause the time of the coming of the Messiah to be "the fullness of time" (i.e., just the right time), as described in Galatians 4:4. The Medes and Persians developed a very strong system of law, which led to a general respect for law and less spirit of anarchy, thus a more peaceful way of life in general. If it was passed as a law, according to the Medes and the Persians, it was to be obeyed. This greater respect for law would be a great aid in the spreading of the saving message after the events of Acts 2.
5. Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed... (Daniel 6:10). The praying that Daniel did was not changed in the least by the decree Darius signed. Even knowing of the punishment assigned to anyone who prayed, Daniel PRAYED. Here was an unjust law that needed to be confronted and Daniel was courageous enough to do the confronting.
6. That Daniel, which is of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king... (Daniel 6:13). The hypocrisy of this statement is almost sickening! These men were involved in a plot, knowing full well that Daniel would be faithful to his God. They knew better than the charge they leveled, but their jealousy had overcome them and they were willing to do anything to rid themselves of Daniel. Here is a remarkable picture of the destructive nature of jealousy. The Bible provides other examples of the damage done by jealousy and warnings against it (cf., Gen 37:4; 1 Sam 18:8; Lk 15:28; Prov 14:30; Job 5:2; Prov 27:4).
7. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth... (Daniel 6:27). What produced such praise of Jehovah God from the lips of an idolatrous heathen? It was the miraculous deliverance of Daniel from the mouths of the lions. Why were miracles performed by Jesus? It was for the purpose of producing faith in Himself as the Son of God (John 20:30-31). Pentecostals of our day have not come to recognize the purpose of miracles and to understand that they are no longer needed in that we have the completed and perfect will of God to do the same (1 Cor 13:8-10; John 20:30-31).

## VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

Q E X C E E D I N G A Z X S W E D C V F  
 R F V T G B Y H N L U J M I L K L O P I  
 K P M J U Y H N M A B V C X Z I D E N L  
 K J A H G F D S A D Q W E P I U O Y T R  
 R E Z L L M N D E L I V E R B V C N Z L  
 O I K E A U J M Y H N T E A R L Y G S B  
 R F G V E C D L C W S Y R E T S A M Q A  
 Z N X S W E E A D N C V S F R T G B Y H  
 A N H U J M K M I O I L P E O L I K M J  
 N O M U S I C E J U Y G H N R T G B R F  
 O V F R E N D N C W S X H Q A V Z X S W  
 S E D C V S R T F V B G T T Y H A N M U  
 L U J M T T G A B R F V E D C W S N X L  
 E Q A P Z R W B S X C D E F R F V B T I  
 E B Y I H U N L M J U I K L A O P L O V  
 P I K E M M Y E H N T G B R F S V E D I  
 D C W C S E X V O I C E Q A Z X T S W N  
 E D C E Q N A Z W S X E D C R F V I T G  
 G B Y S H T N U I N N O C E N C Y U N J  
 M I K O L S P I K U J M T G B R F V E G

[The words below are part of the description of what took place after Daniel had been thrown into the lions' den. See if you can find them above. There could be one word spelled backward.]

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|---------------|-----------------|
| 01. palace    | 02. night       |
| 03. fasting   | 04. instruments |
| 05. music     | 06. sleep       |
| 07. early     | 08. den         |
| 09. lions     | 10. lamentable  |
| 11. voice     | 12. servant     |
| 13. living    | 14. deliver     |
| 15. angel     | 16. innocency   |
| 17. exceeding | 18. glad        |
| 19. mastery   | 20. pieces      |