



## Life More Abundant Bible Study

# Bible Prophecy: Daniel Chapter 6

Daniel Chapter 6, very similar in form to Daniel Chapter 4 which describes the humbling of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, is written almost parenthetically in the midst of other chapters having strong prophetic detail. Nonetheless, Daniel 6 gives insights to the character and future plight of God's *remnant people* who fall under persecution in the last days before Christ's Second Coming.

The Chapter begins after the conquest of the Nation of Babylon (538BC), where Darius the Mede at 62yrs old, uncle of Cyrus the Persian, is respectfully given command of the subdued territories of Babylon and appoints governors and presidents to preside over the province. Within two years Darius had died and the throne was assumed by Cyrus. Daniel is identified as the first of three presidents and likely would have been made Prime Minister over all provinces were it not politically incorrect to appoint a captive, a Jew, to such a lofty position. Nonetheless, credit must be given to Darius for discerning the exceptional Spirit within Daniel and for appointing him a president, even as he did.

The bible says that Darius sought to make Daniel chief over all presidents and Daniel was therefore envied by the other two presidents and governors. The bible says Daniel was faithful and nothing could be found in his conduct or character worthy of reproof. In the plotting of the other two presidents and governors to find something against Daniel they resolved: "*We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find [it] against him concerning the **law of his God.***" Daniel 5:5. (Compare Revelation 14:5)

1. Can the same thing be said of you today? Can anything be held against you besides direct opposition to your worship of God and His laws? Are conditions for Christians today better or worse than the conditions were for the Hebrew captives during the time of Daniel?

Heeding the counsel of the prophet Jeremiah to occupy, build, and live peaceably while in Babylon until God's purposed deliverance of the Hebrew people (Jeremiah 29:1-14), Daniel lived a prominent life and excelled in government and the affairs of state under both the Babylonian and Mede-Persian occupation.

2. Consider what we have learned of the character of Daniel to date in our studies. What words would you use to describe his relation to God?

See the following verses and what they say of the character of God's people, shortly before the return of Christ:

- a. Psalm 32:2
- b. Revelation 14:1-5
- c. Revelation 12:11, 17; 14:4, 5, 12

The bible says that in Daniel's absence and in the guise of exalting the king's authority and honor, the other presidents and governors *confederate* in recommending a law be enacted, establishing sole worship of King Darius for 30 days; failure to comply would result in being cast into a den of lions. With the king's consent, he, the governors and presidents all present sealed the decree with their signet rings, making it law (Daniel 6:8, 9, 17; Esther 3:10, -12, 8:10). Based on your knowledge of the 10 Commandments, written by the finger of God, which commandment(s) would be violated if this decree were kept by an individual? See Exodus 20:1-17, James 2:10

3. Upon learning of the decree made law, what did Daniel do differently in his worship to God from the custom he had established (v10)? Where did Daniel learn this practice in the first place? See 1 Kings 8:22-52; Jonah 2:1-4
4. Was this an open act of defiance against the king and his government by Daniel? Consider the following verses when giving your answer?
  - 1 Peter 2:13-17
  - Ecclesiastes 8:2-9
  - Romans 13:1-5
5. When would disobeying civil authorities and laws be appropriate? Read
  - Matthew 22:19-21
  - Acts 4:19; 5:27-29
  - 1 John 5:9
6. What is Darius' response upon hearing of the accusations brought against Daniel (v14)?
7. Why is King Darius not able to repeal the law he enacted? See Daniel 6:8, 12, 15; Esther 4:4-17

8. What is being suggested in the fact that the laws of the Medes and Persians cannot be repealed once given (v15)? To whom and what are the king and his decrees being likened? Consider the following verses when giving your answer: Psalm 119:89; 89:34; Isaiah 40:8; Numbers 23:19
  
9. Notice Darius' confidence and assurance to Daniel regarding the protection of Daniel's God (v16). Notice also that this pagan king fasts from food, music, sleep, and entertainment on behalf of Daniel, a Hebrew slave under his dominion (v18). What would it take today for you to leave the kind of impression Daniel left upon the minds of others?
  
10. Consider Daniel's attitude towards remaining true to God's commandments in the face of death. Compare Daniel's attitude and behavior to the redeemed of God towards the end of time. Read the following:
  - Revelation 12: 10, 11
  - Matthew 24:3-10
  - Revelation 6:9-11
  - 1 Peter 4:12-19
  
11. Discuss Darius' lamentation for Daniel the following day at the mouth of the lion's den and Daniel's proclamation of God's deliverance. What is ascribed to Daniel's deliverance (v19-23)?
  
12. Consider the fate of those that plot against the people of God. As Christians today, should we delight in the destruction of the wicked (Psalm 37) or should we sigh and cry, petitioning the Lord for mercy and their salvation? Discuss.

We have observed in the book of Daniel thus far the following characteristics exemplified by the two *pagan* empires described, all of which have spiritual significance to be discussed in future lessons:

Babylon	Mede-Persia
Self Exaltation (Dan 3:15; 4:30)	Paganism/Blasphemy (Dan 6:6-9)
Defiance above and against the word and purposes of God (Daniel 2:31-45; 3:1)	"Liberators" of God's people [from Babylon] by three decrees (Daniel 5:28, 30, 31; Ezra 6:14, 15, 7:11-26)
Wealth & Prosperity (Dan 2:37, 38)	Irrevocability/infallibility (Dan 6:8, 12, 15)
Spirit of Antichrist (Dan 2:11)	Duplicitous craft directed against the people of God and their faithfulness to God's law (Daniel 6:5-9)

Paganism/Blasphemy (Dan 3:1; 5:2, 4)	Exaltation of man as god, above the true God (Daniel 6:7)
Forced Worship (Dan 3:10, 14, 15)	Forced worship by executive order or law (Dan 6:7)
World Dominion (Dan 2:38; 4:10-12)	Accusers of the saints of God (Daniel 6:11-15)
Setting-up an image to be worshipped by the world (Dan 3:1-6)	
Oppression of God's people (Dan 1; 5:16)	

**SUMMARY:**

Daniel provides a real-life example of righteousness by faith, complete victory over sin through Jesus Christ (Romans 6:1-23). Further the experience of Daniel in this chapter is a perfect representation of the fate of the righteous at the end of time. Consider the deception involved in the promotion and passage of the law, where the king was led to believe by the governors and presidents that the law was for the purpose of paying homage to the king as a god, when in reality the ploy was singularly aimed at destroying Daniel, the one who faithfully worshipped the true God of heaven. So too, this will be repeated to the letter for the faithful people of God in the last days (Revelation 13:15-17; 12:10, 11).

Though all may not have the same fortune of deliverance as Daniel in the lion's den, we have assurance that God will be with us always (Matthew 28:18-20) and we will be redeemed at Christ's Second Coming **as we remain faithful** (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10; 16:15; 2 Timothy 4:7, 8). We must **purpose** in our hearts to follow God and keep **all** of His commandments, even if it costs us our lives.

*For a better understanding of prophetic imagery, terms, and symbols used in this bible study, refer to the study, *Interpreting Bible Prophecy*, also located on the *Life More Abundant Bible Study* website.*

*For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways... Psalm 91:11*



Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 1 Peter 5:8-9



And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and [of] Barak, and [of] Samson, and [of] Jephthae; [of] David also, and Samuel, and [of] the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Hebrews 11:32, 33