

Daniel Chapter 6 follows the conquest of the mighty Kingdom of Babylon in 539B.C. Darius the Mede at age sixty-two, uncle of Cyrus the Persian, was respectfully granted command of the subdued province of Babylon. In turn, he appointed governors and presidents to preside over the territory. Daniel was identified as the first of three presidents "because an excellent spirit [was] in him". Daniel would likely have been made Prime Minister over the entire territory had it not been politically incorrect to appoint a captive, a Hebrew, to such a lofty position. Nonetheless, credit is due to King Darius for discerning the exceptional Spirit within Daniel and for appointing him as a president.

In envy of the high regard King Darius had for Daniel, the other presidents and governors sought to find an occasion against him concerning his affairs for the kingdom, but could find none. The Bible says Daniel was "faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him." (v4) The presidents and governors resolved, "We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find [it] against him concerning the law of his God" (v5). Compare this testimony of Daniel's faithfulness to those mentioned in the Revelation 14:5.

Q: Consider that Daniel was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him pertaining to his service to the king. Can the same be said of you in all of your personal dealings: in school; at work; in your tax filings; in your relationships, etc.? Are conditions for Christians today better or worse than the conditions were for the Hebrew captives during the time of

Daniel?

The prophet Jeremiah, shortly before the final Babylonian invasion, counseled the future captives of Israel to occupy and live peaceably while in Babylon until God's deliverance (Jeremiah 29:1-14; Ezekiel 11:16-20). In heeding this counsel, Daniel lived a prominent life, excelling in government and the affairs of state under both the Babylonian and Medo-Persian Empires.

Q: Consider what we have learned of the character of Daniel to date in our studies. What words would describe his relationship to God?

A: Coincidentally, the Bible describes the character of God's people, prior to Jesus' Second Coming, as that of Daniel. See the following verses:

- Psalm 32:1, 2, 5, 6
- Revelation 12:10, 11, 17
- Revelation 14:1-5
- 1 Peter 4:12-19

In Daniel's absence and in the guise of exalting the king's authority and honor, the presidents and governors confederate in drafting a law establishing sole worship of King Darius for thirty days; failure to comply would result in being cast into a den of lions. After gaining the king's consent through flattery, he, the governors and the presidents, absent of

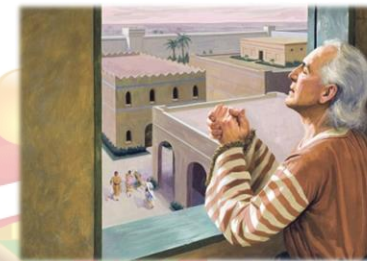


Daniel, with their signet rings sealed and made the decree law.

Q: Which of the Ten Commandments would have been violated by keeping this decree?

A: Read Exodus 20:1-17; James 2:10

Q: Upon learning of the decree made law, did Daniel do anything different in his worship of God from the custom he had established (verse 10)? Where did Daniel learn this practice? See 1 Kings 8:22-52; Jonah 2:1-4; Psalm 55:17



Q: Had Daniel changed his method of worshipping God in order to be unnoticed by others, would he still have honored God and would it have been acceptable worship? Consider the following verses: Matt 10:32, 33; 2 Tim 2:12; Rev 2:10

A: Daniel had learnt to place his complete trust in God and was merely performing the duties he was commanded to perform. Daniel acted in faith and left the results to God. We must similarly walk in faith, trusting that God will supply all of our needs (Luke 12:11, 12, 1 Corinthians 10:13).

Q: Was Daniel's worship an open act of defiance towards the king and his government? When would disobeying civil authorities and laws be appropriate?"

A: Read Matthew 22:15-21; Acts 4:18, 19, 5:27-29; 1 John 5:9

Q: What was Darius' response upon hearing the accusations brought against Daniel (v14)?

A: Darius was very displeased with himself for passing the law and spent the day, into the early evening, trying to find a way to deliver Daniel.

Q: Why was King Darius not able to repeal the law he enacted? See Daniel 6:8, 12, 15; Esther 8:8

A: According to the laws of the Medes and Persians, the king's decrees and statutes were irrevocable.

Q: What was being suggested in that the laws of the Medes and Persians could not be repealed once enacted (v15)? To whom and what were 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

A: God alone is infallible and above correction! The kings of Medo-Persia and their judgments were being likened to God, Who neither changes nor alters that which has gone forth from His mouth. The thoughts and actions of these pagan people, though perhaps done in ignorance, were blasphemous in nature. (John 10:32, 33)



The valiant attempt of King Darius to deliver Daniel from the death decree proved unsuccessful, given the

demands of the presidents and governors to uphold Medo-Persian law. Daniel was commanded to be lowered into a den of lions. The pit was sealed with a stone bearing the signet imprint of the king and his lords, certifying their death decree.

Q: Notice King Darius' words of confidence and assurance towards Daniel regarding the protection of his God (v16). Consider that this pagan king fasted from food, sleep, music, and entertainment on behalf of Daniel, a Hebrew slave under his rule (v18). What would it take for you to leave the kind of impression Daniel left upon the lives of others?

A: As Christians, Jesus has called us to become co-laborers with Him. We are to be His hands and feet in bringing comfort, healing, and His gospel [Good News!] message of a new life in Christ to this dying world. Having received **all power** in heaven and earth, Jesus commissions each of

us to go teach, preach, and baptize in the names of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As we go, He gives us the added assurance that He, with all power, is with us always, even unto the end of the age. (Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 3:6-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, 6:1-10)

The Bible tells us that according to Daniel's unwavering faith in God, He sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths. (Daniel 6:22; Hebrews 11:33; Matthew 9:27-30)

Consider King Darius' lamentation for Daniel the following morning at the mouth of the lion's den, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?"



Q: For whom was this miraculous deliverance wrought?

A: God loves and desires to protect all of His children,

especially those who love Him and keep His commandments. Based on the inquiry made by king Darius however, "[if] Daniel's God was able to deliver him from the lions?", it must be noted that God purposed to be acknowledged and glorified before this pagan king and his subjects. (Isaiah 43:1-13; 49:3; John 14:12-14)

Q: Discuss Daniel's proclamation of God's deliverance. What does he ascribe to the miracle (v19-23)?

A: Daniel proclaimed that His God saved him from the lions "forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt." (v22)

Daniel provides a real-life example of one who has experienced *righteousness by faith*: being justified before God; having the mind and character of Jesus Christ, and attaining complete victory over sin by the *faith of Jesus Christ* (Romans 6:1-23; Hebrews 11:1-40; James 2:21-23). Further, Daniel's experience gives an accurate representation of the fate of the righteous in the *Last Days*. Consider the crafty deception involved in the promotion and passage of the law concerning worship. The king was made to believe that the law was to pay homage to him as a god, when in reality the ploy was singularly aimed at destroying Daniel, a follower of the true God. So too, a cunning ruse will deceive the masses and an **unrighteous decree** will be levied against the faithful people of God in the *Last Days* (Rev 13:14-17; 12:10, 11).



Though all may not have the same fate of deliverance as Daniel in the lion's den, we have Jesus' assurance that He will always be with us (Matt 28:20). Further we are confident that the faithful will be redeemed at Christ's *Second Coming* (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10; 16:15; 2 Tim 4:7, 8). Let us **purpose** to be obedient to Jesus, keeping **all** of His commandments, even if it costs us our lives (Rev 12:11)!

For additional Bible studies or if you have questions, please write or contact: *Life More Abundant*
PO Box 334 * Goshen, VA 24439 * www.lifemoreabundantpa.com * biblestudies@lifemoreabundantpa.com

A King's Sleepless Night

Daniel Chapter 6



Lesson 12