

Daniel

Chapter Six

Daniel 6:1-3

It seemed good to Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, that they should be in charge of the whole kingdom, and over them three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), that they satraps might be accountable to them, and that the king might not suffer loss. Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.

- Last verse of chapter 5 and beginning of chapter 6 introduce us to new ruler in Babylon
- Since Isaiah 13:17 and Jeremiah 51:11,28 prophesy predicted fall of Babylon to the Medes—Darius the Mede takes on added significance
- Daniel also uses the title—Cyrus the Persian—to explain king’s relationship to the world at that time
- Daniel—Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego—also had two names
- Darius/Cyrus—62 in 539 BC
- Persian Empire—largest empire the world had ever known
- This event—takes place as a new govt is being formed (likely 539-537 BC)
- By this time—some of the Jewish exiles are returning to Palestine under the leadership of Zerubbabel
- Persian Empire—divided into 120 satrapies
- Satrap=protector of the kingdom
- Over the 120 satrapies—3 administrators—one being Daniel
- Darius impressed with Daniel—plans to set him above the others
- Esther 8:9—satrapies in place
- Ezra 1

Daniel 6:4-5

Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him. Then these men said, “We shall not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of His God.”

- Elevating Daniel to highest position provokes others to jealousy
- They bring his work/character/professional ability under scrutiny in order to accuse
- No flaw is discovered—neither corrupt or negligent

- Only place to accuse—Daniel’s religious practices
- Daniel did not hide his relationship/service to God—it is foundation for all he does/speaks

Daniel 6:6-8

Then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows: “King Darius, live forever! All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lion’s den. Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked.”

- A plot to betray Daniel is formed
- Darius was to be the only one who could mediate between God and man for 30 days
- Commissioners and satraps come together in agreement (like building the Tower of Babel)—words imply it was like a mob scene
- These jealous ones make an exaggerated claim—all satraps are in agreement—Daniel never consulted
- This is designed to compel those of the previous empire to submit to the authority of Persia
- King is encouraged to issue a decree—put it in writing—Persian law—irrevocable

Daniel 6:9-13

Therefore King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction. Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously. Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God. Then they approached and spoke before the king about the king’s injunction, “Did you not sign an injunction that any man who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, is to be cast into the lions’ den?” The king answered and said, “The statement is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked.” Then they answered and spoke before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps making his petition three times a day.”

- Custom of Daniel—pray/give thanks and praise God 3x a day (Psalm 55:17)

- Bows toward Jerusalem—I Kings 8:35-36,38,44,48 (practice of praying toward Jerusalem came at time of Solomon—at time of Daniel’s prayer—temple is in ruins—God had abandoned earthly ‘home’ (Ezek 9-11 and Jer 7)—Babylonians tear down temple (Lamentations)—God promises to return (Ezek 43:2)
- Daniel refused to change his spiritual behavior or to deny God
- His courage/conviction—willing to stand in face of death
- Daniel understands that he must submit to God/live according to a higher law (Acts 5:29)

Daniel 6:14-15

Then, as soon as the king heard this statement, he was deeply distressed and set his mind on delivering Daniel; and even until sunset he kept exerting himself to rescue him. Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed.”

- Deeply distressed—it grieved him
- Darius realizes that those bringing the accusation are not trying to honor the king—but eliminate their rival
- Darius searches through his laws for a loophole

Daniel 6:16-18

Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions’ den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, “Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you.” And a stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing might be changed in regard to Daniel. Then the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him.

- After all attempts to save Daniel have been exhausted—king gives orders
- Darius expresses hope that Daniel’s God will save—but not certain
- Stone is placed over opening of den—sealed with signet ring
- King returns to palace—fasting and for Daniel
- Darius refuses all entertainment

Daniel 6:19-22

Then the king arose with the dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions’ den. And when he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a

troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?" Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions mouths, and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime."

- King is ready to pardon if the miraculous took place
- He held out hope for the miraculous but anguish in his voice shows he was not confident
- Daniel explains—God sent his angel to protect against lions—because he was innocent—Is 11:6, 65:25, Hos 2:18
- Angel plays role of 4th man in the fiery furnace (3 in furnace—not even smell of smoke—Daniel is not even scratched)

Daniel 6:23-24

Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they cast them, their children, and their wives into the lions' den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

- No weapon formed against him prospers
- Daniel's integrity is vindicated by God Himself
- Those who falsely accused—ordered into the lion's den—along with wives and children

Daniel 6:25-28

Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations, and men of every language who were living in all the land: "May your peace abound! I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, and His dominion will be forever. He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, Who has also delivered Daniel from the power of the lions." So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

- Thirty days must have passed—order given throughout the land—to give proper recognition to God of Daniel
- Darius declares that God is great because He rescues and saves—and—His signs, wonders, and miracles
- Daniel prospered—he was elevated to second highest position in land—under Darius

- Blessed in material wealth as well

Daniel Chapter Six-----Workbook

Project:

For 30 days—Keep a Thanksgiving Journal. See how many things you have to be grateful for.

Harmonize:

Read Acts 4. How did the disciples respond when they were told to 'cease and desist'?

Dig:

- 1) How did Darius set up his government? Why is this wise?
- 2) What do we know about Daniel and his character from chapter six?
- 3) What do we know about the other commissioners/satraps from chapter six?
- 4) What do we know about Darius from chapter six?
- 5) What hope does Darius voice about God?
- 6) What reasons did Daniel give for his deliverance from the lions?
- 7) How did the satraps and commissioners suffer for their betrayal?

8) What declarations does Darius make about the Lord?

9) What guaranteed that the lion's den was secured properly?

Discuss:

1) What are the benefits of a law that cannot be changed (vs 8,15)?

2) When does the Law of God override the laws of men?

3) Who came closest to Daniel in character in our country's government? (now or in history)

Point of Prayer:

Pray for someone who has suffered betrayal (including yourself). Pray that healing and forgiveness is extended.

Integrate:

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

Application:

- 1) What spiritual disciplines do you engage in on a daily basis?
- 2) Are there any spiritual disciplines you have never tried? Why?
- 3) How do you respond in situations where you suffer due to another's unrighteous behavior?
- 4) Have you ever been betrayed by a friend or co-worker? How did you respond?
- 5) Have you made a false accusation toward a family member? Church member? Neighbor?
- 6) Have you ever repeated a negative report that you had heard about someone?
- 7) If you suddenly found yourself in the same situation as Daniel—Would your behavior from the last 30 days bring you under similar conviction?
- 8) Have your experienced jealousy? How did you act on it?