

## Daniel In The Lion's Den

### Daniel 6:1-28

#### I. Introduction:

##### A. Beloved Narrative

1. – It is a story of Daniel's faithfulness to God.
  - a. Daniel would not forsake Jehovah God even if it cost him his life.
2. – It is a story of God's faithfulness to Daniel.
  - a. Daniel stood faithful in the face of harsh persecution.
  - b. God honored this prophet who honored Him. God preserved his life.
3. – It is a story of God's name being honored.
  - a. Once again God's name was exalted among the king & subjects of a Gentile nation.
  - b. By Daniel's faithfulness & demonstration of God's power, God's name was exalted

##### B. Context

1. Chapter 6 opens with Daniel serving in the Persian Empire. Chapter 5 gave an account of the fall of the Babylonian Empire. Belshazzar was the last Babylonian king.
2. In 539 B.C. Medo-Persian army conquered the city & the Babylonian Empire fell.
3. Just as God had revealed in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the Babylonian Empire ended and another took its place.

#### II. Daniel In The Persian Empire (Daniel 6:1-3)

##### A. Government Restructure

1. The government is restructured. Darius divided his kingdom into 120 regions & appointed 120 satraps (local governors) to manage those regions.
2. Over the 120 local governors, Darius appointed three upper-level governors.
3. It seems that each of the 3 upper-level governors managed 40 of the local governors.
4. Local satraps / governors ensured taxes were collected & that king's laws were obeyed
5. Daniel was one of the three upper-level governors that answered directly to the king.

##### B. The Character of Daniel (Daniel 6:3)

1. – He distinguished himself.
  - a. Daniel set himself apart by His conduct & performance. Daniel's regions under his 40 satraps were the most organized, most productive, & most effectively managed
  - b. Daniel's integrity, his experience, & his wisdom was seen in his daily performance.
  - c. Daniel brought corporate knowledge with him from the previous kingdom.
  - d. Under Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel had served as the regent of the entire nation.
2. – His Personal Character
  - a. O. T. saints weren't permanently indwelt by H. S. as we're today in the church age.
  - b. However, H.S. did come upon those saints in accomplishment of God's purposes.
  - c. Daniel walked with God as close as any man recorded in the Bible.
  - d. When we walk close to the Lord, it makes us visibly different in the world.
  - e. The hand of Jehovah God was on the man which made him different.
3. – The King Noticed
  - a. King Darius notice the difference in Daniel.
  - b. The king could see the superior character and performance of God's man.

- c. Darius was so impressed with Daniel he considered making him the 2<sup>nd</sup> in command
- d. Daniel was the number 2 man in last kingdom & now, in a new kingdom, he's being appointed to the same role.

### **III. Jealousy and Hatred (Daniel 6:4-5)**

#### **A. Looking for Dirt**

1. Their 1<sup>st</sup> plan was to get him fired. So, they looked into all his business practices.
2. They looked for any questionable activity they could use to accuse him before the king
3. But, Daniel's business and personal life was above reproach. He was a model citizen.
4. Application: Think about our own lives. If our ability to minister or witness to others is damaged by activity in which we are engaged, then we should not engage in that activity.

### **IV. Attack His Faith (Daniel 6:6-9)**

- *After the first plan failed, they decided to put his faith to the test.*

#### **A. A Nefarious Plan**

1. These men camouflaged their evil intent under the cover of allegiance.
2. 1 way to express dedication to new empire was pray only to Persia's king for 30 days.
3. Nebuchadnezzar attempted same thing in chapter 3 with golden image on plain of Dura
4. This is a consolidation of the throne & the church for the government & the national religion would reside in one person, the King of Persia.
5. Application: The 1<sup>st</sup> amendment of the constitution of the United States says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."
6. The 1<sup>st</sup> amendment says nothing about separating church & state. It prohibits the U.S. government from establishing a national religion & forcing everyone to be part of it.
7. The separation of church and state as we know it today is not in the constitution.

### **V. Daniel's Response (Daniel 6:10)**

#### **A. Daniel Knew**

1. Daniel knew all about their plan. These men lied to the king by saying all governors were in agreement with this decree when actually Daniel was not in agreement.
2. King signed the law. Daniel knew it would cost him his life to be faithful to the Lord.

#### **B. Daniel's Response**

1. – He prayed as usual.
  - a. Daniel simply continued to do what he had always done.
  - b. He knelt in his room toward Jerusalem, with the window open, and prayed.
  - c. Since his 1<sup>st</sup> days of captivity, ~ 65 years ago, he'd prayed 3x day toward Jerusalem.
  - d. Application: Perhaps lack of prayer in our own lives explains why we sometimes struggle to walk as we should in the Lord.
2. – Daniel Prayed Confidently.
  - a. Daniel prayed confidently to the God who could veto law of the Medes & Persians!
  - b. Daniel knew the laws of man never take precedence over the laws of God.
  - c. Evidence God heard his prayer is seen in manifestation of God's power for Daniel.
  - d. Application: Man's 21<sup>st</sup> century laws do not nullify God's laws found in the Bible.
3. – Daniel's Prayer Was Not Ostentatious.
  - a. He prayed with his window open, but he did not do it on the roof.
  - b. He served God openly, but did not do it to make a show.

- c. Daniel continued his normal practice of prayer as it was normal function of his life.
- d. Application: Sometimes Christians make a show of their faith when they should live as if it's a normal part of their lives.
- e. There's no biblical mandate to be obnoxious to lost people.

## **VI. Daniel Accused (Daniel 6:11-17)**

### **A. No Defense**

1. Daniel offered no defense; he accepted the cost of being faithful & trusted Jehovah God
2. The enemy would be delighted & likely think that they would be through with Daniel once & for all.

### **B. The King Displeased**

1. The king realized too late he had been manipulated.
2. He was fond of Daniel and sought every way to deliver him from the lion's den.
3. But law of the Medes & Persians was unalterable, so in the lion's den Daniel went.

## **VII. Miraculous Deliverance (Daniel 6:18-23)**

### **A. Deliverance**

1. The King spent a restless night over what had been done to Daniel.
2. His heart troubled him; he knew they had sent an innocent man to his death.
3. Mourning Lament: Early in the morning the king stood outside lion's den & lamented over Daniel. To his surprise, Daniel answered him from inside the lion's den.
4. Daniel testified that God had sent His angel and closed the mouths of the lions.
5. Daniel probably slept better than the king!

### **B. God Glorified**

1. The most important aspect of this whole story is that God was glorified.
2. Another pagan king gives honor and glory to Jehovah God, the God of Daniel.

## **VIII. The rest of the Story (Daniel 6:24-28)**

### **A. Conclusion**

1. This is the last we see of Daniel in this life.
2. He served into the reign of Cyrus, king of Persia.

### **B. Saved by Faith**

1. Daniel's faith resulted in his salvation spiritually and more than once physically.