



RESOLVED

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL



But Daniel **made up his mind**
[resolved] that he would not defile
himself with the king's choice food
or with the wine which he drank;
so he sought permission from the
commander of the officials that he
might not defile himself.

Daniel 1:8

Daniel 1:8

וַיֵּשֶׁם דָּנִיֵּאל עַל-לִבּוֹ

way·yā·śem dā·nî·yêl 'al- lib·bōw

Daniel resolved in his heart

Daniel made up his mind

Daniel purposed in his heart

Daniel determined





Daniel 6



Last week...

So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.

Daniel 5:31

In Daniel chapter 6, the year is now 539 BC... a few years after Daniel chapter 5 and 66 years after Daniel chapter 1.

The Persian Empire





It seemed good to Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom [of Babylon], that they would be in charge of the whole kingdom, and over them three commissioners [viziers] (of whom Daniel was one), that these 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. Daniel 6:1-3



Who was Darius the Mede?

- Some are of opinion that the name “Darius” is simply a name of office, equivalent to “governor.” - Easton’s Bible Dictionary
- Darius the Mede is a supposed king of Babylon mentioned in the Book of Daniel as reigning between Belshazzar and Cyrus the Great, but he is not known to history, and no additional king can be placed between the known figures of Belshazzar and Cyrus. Some have tried to harmonize the Book of Daniel with history by identifying him with various known figures, notably Cyrus or Gobryas, the general who was first to enter Babylon when it fell to the Persians in 539 BCE. - Wikipedia



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 [Daniel served under King Nebuchadnezzar for 39 years], inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him.

Daniel 6:4



- A "satrap" was a ruler over a portion of a kingdom. Daniel, at an advanced age, has been appointed to a high position in the new Persian government over the province of Babylon.
- Daniel and his other two colleagues were to make sure that none of the satraps were corrupt or made themselves rich at government expense.
- Daniel, who has been a wise and exceptional official under Nebuchadnezzar, shines brightly under Persian rule.



Daniel's character is:

- 1.Trustworthy.** He tells the truth and can be counted on to be faithful to his responsibilities.
- 2.Diligent.** He keeps up with all his duties and doesn't let anything slip.
- 3.Honest.** He doesn't take money or bribes from those trying to break the rules or be preferred over others. He hasn't been corrupted by how he might further his own interests while in office.



Then these men said, “We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God.” Daniel 6:5

While his colleagues had come to hate Daniel they could not but recognize his integrity. They knew that their only hope lay in employing Daniel’s well-known spiritual strength as a political weakness, knowing that he would obey God rather than men. This they did by turning the king’s spiritual weakness into their own political strength. - New Bible Commentary



Then these [other 122] 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 lions’ den.” Daniel 6:6-7




“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.” Therefore King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction. Daniel 6:8-9



Consistency in our prayer life?

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. Daniel 6:10

Evening and **morning** and at **noon**, I will complain and murmur, and He will hear my voice. Psalm 55:17



Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God. Daniel 6:11

*Daniel is more than 80 years old

Petition בְּעָהּ bâ'ah A request of a solemn or formal kind

Supplication חָנָן chanan A humble petition; an earnest request; an entreaty



Routine in our prayer life?

- **Direction** of Prayer (upstairs room where the windows opened towards Jerusalem in 6:10)
- **Regularity** of Prayer (“as he had been doing previously” in 6:10)
- **Thanksgiving** in Prayer (giving thanks in 6:10, even in the context of grave personal danger)
- **Posture** of Prayer (“on his knees” in 6:10)
- **Earnestness** of Prayer (“petition and supplication” in 6:11)



Why Pray Toward Jerusalem?

King Solomon prayed, “Listen to the supplications of Your servant and of Your people Israel when they pray toward this place; hear from Your dwelling place, from heaven; hear and forgive.” 2 Chronicles 6:21

“When Your people go out to battle against their enemies, by whatever way You shall send them, and they pray to You toward this city which You have chosen and the house which I have built for Your name, then hear from heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.”

2 Chronicles 6:34-35



Then they [accusers] 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 replied, "The statement is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked."

Daniel 6:12

Medo-Persian governmental practices didn't allow laws to be repealed. That's what Daniel's enemies were counting on.

– Dr. Ralph F. Wilson



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.” Daniel 6:13



What would Jesus say to Daniel?

Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:10



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.”

Daniel 6:14-15



The law of the Medes and Persians

“If it pleases the king, let a royal edict be issued by him and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media so that it cannot be repealed, that Vashti may no longer come into the presence of King Ahasuerus, and let the king give her royal position to another who is more worthy than she.” Esther 1:19

“Now you write to the Jews as you see fit, in the king’s name, and seal it with the king’s signet ring; for a decree which is written in the name of the king and sealed with the king’s signet ring may not be revoked.” Esther 8:8



Why can't the laws be revoked?

- The point of the law against repealing laws was to limit the kings' whims and favoritism. So although extremely inconvenient, it seemed to serve a good purpose. – The Layman's Bible
- Regarding the events of the Book of Esther... Greek historian Herodotus estimated in his day that it took three months for a message to be carried throughout the entire Persian empire. Thus, the King is saying that once word of Haman's decree is out, there is no mechanism for recalling it. Haman's edict was promulgated 70 days previously (see Esther 8:9, 3:12). In those 70 days, nearly the entire empire had already received word of it. Whatever latent anti-Jewish feeling was present in the population was already stoked. So, the King is saying that the damage from the edict has already been done and cannot be repaired with just a revocation. - Ben Zion Katz



Trusting God's Sovereignty

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." Daniel 6:16

*What have non-believers learned about trusting God by observing the faithfulness of believers in our congregation?





- Execution by being thrown to the animals was not a common form of capital punishment in the ancient Near East. It wasn't made popular until it was introduced in the Roman Empire about the 2nd century BC.
- Lions and big cats were greatly admired. Apart from being hunted for sport, lions were sometimes kept in captivity, and the den of lions into which Daniel was thrown was perhaps part of a royal zoo. The Assyrian king Ashurnasirpal II (883-859 BC) is reported to have maintained a breeding farm for lions at Nimrud. Statues of winged lions were placed at the entrances of palaces and important public buildings in Assyria and Babylonia.
- Baldwin says that the text implies that the lion-pit had two entrances, a ramp down which the animals would enter, and a hole in the roof by which the food would normally be fed to them. Whether Daniel was thrown in from the top or from the side there would be only one way out unless someone let down a rope.



John James 1871



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 would 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.

Daniel 6:17-18



By Briton Rivière (1890)



How does it feel in the lions' den?

- Frightening
- Dark
- Loud
- Smelly
- Lonely
- Defeated
- Abandoned
- Unsettled
- Attacked
- Targeted
- Hated
- Confusing



What would Jesus say to Daniel?

**“With people this is impossible, but
with God all things are possible.”**

Matthew 19:26



Then the king arose at dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions' den. When he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled [sad] 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?" Daniel 6:19-20



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." Daniel 6:21-22



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.

Daniel 6:23

- *According to Herodotus, punishment of an entire family was in keeping with Persian law.
- *How many people were thrown in?
- *How many lions were there?



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. 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!"
Daniel 6:24-25



Darius said, “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.” Daniel 6:26-27



So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.
Daniel 6:28

Who was Darius the Mede?

Archaeological evidence for him is lacking. Evidence points to only one likely candidate. This person was Gubaru (or Gobyrus), governor of Gutium, who seized Babylon for Cyrus and was viceroy over Mesopotamia, exercising royal powers. His age and ancestry are unknown, but Gutium was in Median territory, and an army he led would have been Median.



Lessons from Daniel 6

- God blesses your diligence while others may resent it.
- Is serving God privately and faithfully the routine of your spiritual life?
- Past faithfulness to God does not ensure present ease in life.
- Faithfulness in younger years does not guarantee “spiritual ease” in later years.
- Will you stand up for God and His Word when surrounded or threatened by non-believers?



Lessons from Daniel 6

- Those who hate God also hate God's faithful people.
- Non-believers notice when believers serve God faithfully in the midst of painful struggles (like the lions' den).
- Daniel is over 80 years of age in this chapter. Growing old does not mean that God is finished with you.
- Daniel was shielded by the power of God through faith.
 - "And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions..." Hebrews 11:32-33



Blessing Follows Obedience

“Therefore the Lord God of Israel declares, ‘I did indeed say that your house and the house of your father should walk before Me forever’; but now the Lord declares, ‘Far be it from Me—for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed.’” 1 Samuel 2:30

For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come ... Hebrews 6:4-5



Today...

**Followers of Jesus look
ahead to His return**



Prophecy about the coming Messiah...

Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse [father of King David], and a branch [נֶצֶר netser] from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And He will delight in the fear of the Lord, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; Isaiah 11:1-3



But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist. And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. Isaiah 11:4-7



Messiah Jesus has come and
is coming again soon.

Have you given your heart to
the God who is greater than
the lions you face?