

Daniel 6:1 KJV

6 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

Daniel 6:1 AMPC

6 It pleased [King] Darius [successor to Belshazzar] to set over the kingdom 120 satraps who should be [in charge] throughout all the kingdom,

This was a very large kingdom, and these men were set up to keep order in the land. These princes are the “satraps” we had studied about previously. Each is a provincial administrator under the king. Daniel’s eminent appointment was to a post as “commissioner”, assisting the king as his vice- regent.

Daniel 6:2 KJV

2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Daniel 6:2 AMPC

2 And over them three presidents—of whom Daniel was one—that these satraps might give account to them and that the king should have no loss or damage.

These three men were presidents and next in command under the king and of higher rank than the 120. It is unusual for a Hebrew to be over these Medes. These “princes” were responsible to prevent loss from military revolts, tax evasion or fraud. It appears that each of them was over 1/3 of the kingdom.

Note: Perhaps, the word had come to them of Daniel's reading the handwriting on the wall and interpreting it.

Daniel 6:3 KJV

3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Daniel 6:3 AMPC

3 Then this Daniel was distinguished above the presidents and the satraps because an excellent spirit was in him, and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Daniel found favor with the king, and the king was about to make Daniel the only one over all the kingdoms....this was sure to cause jealousy. This excellent spirit in Daniel was a righteous spirit, Daniel did what was right according to the God. He only told people in all areas of life, from work, friends, enemies what God told Him to say, he was a truth teller.

It is no wonder the king wanted to set him above all the rest in this kingdom (Daniel was a favorite of the king.). At this point in his life, Daniel was over 80 an he had enjoyed God’s blessing throughout his life.

Daniel had experience, wisdom, a sense of history, leadership, a good reputation, ability, attitude and revelation from the God of heaven. Apparently, God wanted him in the place of influence to encourage and assist in the Jews' return to Judah, since the return was made in Cyrus' first year, right before the lions den incident.

From the record (of Ezra 1 and 6), all the basic elements of the return appear:

(1)The temple was to be rebuilt with the cost paid from Cyrus' treasury;

(2)All Jews who visited could return, and those who stayed were urged to assist financially; and

(3)The gold and silver vessels stolen from the temple by Nebuchadnezzar were to be taken back.

To account for such favor toward the Jews, it is easy to think of Daniel not only influencing Cyrus to write such a decree, but even formulating it for him.

Daniel 6:4 KJV

4 Then the presidents and princes *sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.*

Daniel 6:4 AMPC

4 Then the presidents and satraps sought to find occasion [to bring accusation] against Daniel concerning the kingdom, but they could find no occasion or fault, for he was faithful, nor was there any error or fault found in him.

Their jealousy set them against Daniel, the one who could not be bought, the truth teller, the one who did not cower when threatened with death. He could be trusted to tell people God's Truth regardless of the audience and who was in attendance.

They tried (plotted) every way they could to find fault with Daniel, that they might report it to Darius. Daniel had been a faithful servant of king Darius. This plot was like the effort against Daniels's 3 friends (in 3:8), and was also similar to that by Joseph's brothers (in Gen 37:18-24).

Plot defined:

a plan made in secret by a group of people to do something illegal or harmful.

Daniel 6:5 KJV

5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

Daniel 6:5 AMPC

5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion [to bring accusation] against this Daniel except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

Everyone knew Daniel was more loyal to his God than to anyone, or anything else. They decided to trap him, by creating a law that would put him in conflict with God's Word or God's Laws. They were going to try and use his faith and obedience to God's Word against him. This is what they were plotting....

Daniel 6:6 KJV

6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

Daniel 6:6 AMPC

6 Then these presidents and satraps came [tumultuously] together to the king and said to him, King Darius, live forever!

Notice, they began by flattering the king. They did not care whether he lived or not, unless it would help them get their way.

Daniel 6:7 KJV

7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

Daniel 6:7 AMPC

7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the deputies and the satraps, the counselors and the governors, have consulted and agreed that the king should establish a royal statute and make a firm decree that whoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, except of you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.

The king was proud of his accomplishments, and he thought it nothing but right for his subjects to consult him first. He loved Daniel, and had no idea these presidents and princes were conspiring against Daniel. Notice, in this petition to the king, they appealed to the vanity of the king.

Ancient kings were frequently worshiped as gods. Pagans had such inferior views of their gods that such “homage” was no problem. These presidents and princes were aware of Daniel's loyalty to his God and this was the only way to trap him.

Note: These evil men set the punishment against Daniel.

Daniel 6:8 KJV

8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Daniel 6:8 AMPC

8 Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be altered.

Once enacted, Medo-Persian law could not be changed, even by the king. A king (anyone) should be more careful who they take council from. Their flattery is what caused the king to listen to them. They remind him that once he has signed this paper, there will be no turning back. The law of the Medes and Persians was carried out when it was signed.

Daniel 6:9 KJV

9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

Daniel 6:9 AMPC

9 So King Darius signed the writing and the decree.

Their persuasion was so great, he just signed the paper.

Daniel 6:10 KJV

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Daniel 6:10 AMPC

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house, and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he got down upon his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

Three times a day was also the pattern established by David (in Psalm 55:16-17).

Psalms 55:16-17 KJV

16 As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me.

17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Note: It was not a strictly mandatory law (commandment) in the Torah for Hebrew people to pray exactly three times daily at the time of Daniel. However, it was an established custom among devout Jews, practiced by figures like David and later associated with the times of the Temple sacrifices. Jewish tradition holds that the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) established the three prayer times. Following the destruction of the first Temple, prayers often replaced sacrifices, and praying three times a day, often facing Jerusalem, became a common way for Jews to remain faithful during the exile.

After all these years, Daniel stayed faithful to God. If the law of the land puts you in a position of sinning against God, Daniel disobeyed the law of the land and kept God's law. Daniel's pattern of prayer toward God's temple conformed to Solomon's prayer that the Lord's people would do so.

Daniel couldn't be bought, could not be intimidated to be disobedient to God... that is why all of the accounts of Daniel state he had an excellent or righteous spirit about him. By opening the window toward Jerusalem, he was saying, his loyalty was to the God of Israel.

Daniel 6:11 KJV

11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Daniel 6:11 AMPC

*11 Then these men came **thronging** [by agreement] and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.*

They knew he would, so they just waited to catch him praying. Supplication is another way of asking for favor, or asking God to have mercy.

Daniel 6:12 KJV

12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Daniel 6:12 AMPC

*12 Then they came near and said before the king concerning his prohibitory decree, Have you not signed an edict that any man who shall make a petition to any god or man within thirty days, except of you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, **which cannot be changed or repealed***

This had been the purpose of the decree in the first place. They wanted to get rid of Daniel.

Daniel 6:13 KJV

*13 Then answered they and said before the king, That **Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.***

Daniel 6:13 AMPC

*13 Then they said before the king, That **Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, does not regard or pay any attention to you, O king, or to the decree that you have signed,** but makes his petition three times a day.*

The king would not have accepted this accusation, if it had been from one person. Several came as witness to this thing Daniel had done. They cleverly put in the fact that Daniel was with the captives of Judah, as if that made him a lesser person. They are accusing Daniel of ignoring the decree of the king. Not once, but three times a day when he prayed. At this point, Daniel had lived over 60 years in Babylon. His loyalty to the rulers was well known; in spite of that loyalty, his consistent faithfulness to God brought this threat.

Daniel 6:14 KJV

14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

Daniel 6:14 AMPC

*14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed [over what he had done] and set his mind on Daniel to deliver him; **and he labored until the sun went down to rescue him.***

King Darius loved Daniel, he tried to find some way that he could get out of throwing Daniel into the lion's den.

The king knew he had been trapped into signing this decree and had been made to be a fool. He was angry with himself for signing this law and his hope was there would be some way out of this. Quick decisions get us all in trouble from time to time.

Daniel 6:15 KJV

15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

Daniel 6:15 AMPC

15 Then these same men came thronging [by agreement] to the king and said, Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed or repealed.

These evil, jealous men come to the king again, and tell him he has to carry out the law he has signed, he has no choice.

Daniel 6:16 KJV

*16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now **the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.***

Daniel 6:16 AMPC

*16 Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. **The king said to Daniel, May your God, Whom you are serving continually, deliver you!***

It is interesting that Darius, the Mede, would tell Daniel “may your God save you or deliver you!” He did not want to harm Daniel and it was almost as if the king was offering up a prayer for Daniel...But the king was trapped and threw Daniel into the lion's den.

The word “den” is related to the Hebrew term meaning “to dig,” so it refers to an underground pit which likely had:

- (1) a hole at the top from which to drop food into the pit, and
- (2) a door at the foot of a ramp or on a hillside through which the lions could enter.

Daniel 6:17 KJV

17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

Daniel 6:17 AMPC

17 And a stone was brought and laid upon the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that there might be no change of purpose concerning Daniel.

The king's signet (usually a ring) was pressed into wax to show his seal. **They put a stone on the tomb of Daniel, a den of lions where there was seemingly no way out.**

Daniel 6:18 KJV

18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

Daniel 6:18 AMPC

18 Then the king went to his palace and passed the night fasting, neither were instruments of music or dancing girls brought before him; and his sleep fled from him.

His act of signing this decree has brought this terrible thing about. He was so troubled, couldn't sleep **and he fasted.** Kings have fine food and drink at their disposal, Darius wanted none of this. He did not listen to the soft music to put him to sleep, as he usually did. He couldn't sleep and he wanted Daniel's God to save Daniel.

Daniel 6:19 KJV

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

Daniel 6:19 AMPC

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions.

He had to see what had happened...very early in the morning.

Note: _____

Daniel 6:20 KJV

20 And when he came to the den, **he cried with a lamentable voice** unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, **O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?**

Daniel 6:20 AMPC

20 And when he came to the den and to Daniel, **he cried out in a voice of anguish.** The king said to Daniel, **O Daniel, servant of the living God, is your God, Whom you serve continually, able to deliver you from the lions?**

Darius believed that Daniel's God could save him, but in the physical he knew it would be impossible. He reminds me of the man who came to Jesus to heal his boy. He said, I believe, but help thou mine unbelief.

Mark 9:23-24 AMPC

23 And Jesus said, [You say to Me], If You can do anything? [Why,] all things can be (are possible) to him who believes!
24 At once the father of the boy gave [an eager, piercing, inarticulate] cry with tears, and he said, Lord, I believe! [Constantly] **help my weakness of faith!**

This is the way Darius is here... he wants to believe, but it is hard to believe under these circumstances. He cries out to Daniel, hoping Daniel will answer and he reaffirms his belief in Daniel's God.

Daniel 6:21 KJV

*21 Then said Daniel unto the king, **O king, live for ever.***

Daniel 6:21 AMPC

*21 Then Daniel said to the king, **O king, live forever!***

This had to be the sweetest sound Darius had ever heard. Daniel was not angry with Darius, Daniel instructed King Nebuchadnezzar not to kill those in the Kingdom that were out to get him in Daniel 2 when interpreting and telling the dream.

Matthew 5:43-48 AMPC

*43 **You have heard that it was said,** You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy;*

*44 **But I tell you,** Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*

*45 **To show that you are the children of your Father** Who is in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the wicked and on the good, and makes the rain fall upon the upright and the wrongdoers [alike].*

*46 For **if you love those who love you, what reward can you have?** Do not even the tax collectors do that?*

47 And if you greet only your brethren, what more than others are you doing? Do not even the Gentiles (the heathen) do that?

*48 **You, therefore, must be perfect [growing into complete maturity of godliness in mind and character,** having reached the proper height of virtue and integrity], as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Daniel 6:22 KJV

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Daniel 6:22 AMPC

*22 My God has sent His angel and has shut the lions' mouths so that they have not hurt me, **because I was found innocent and blameless before Him; and also before you, O king, [as you very well know] I have done no harm or wrong.***

Daniel was not guilty of sin against God, or against Darius and God sent His angel to help Daniel.

Daniel 3:24-25 AMPC

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king [saw and] was astounded, and he jumped up and said to his counselors, Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered, True, O king.

25 He answered, Behold, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt! And the form of the fourth is like a son of the gods!

How many of us would not have been angry at this king for what he did? For us, it could be someone who had done something to hurt us or to cause us pain by what they said. But Daniel was not guilty of either. He did not sin against God nor did he sin against the person who had done this to him. How many of us can say that as we through every day's problems?

**God did not save Daniel from the lion's den.
He saved him in the lion's den.**

God will not remove all trouble from you either, but He will be there to help you through those problems.

Daniel 6:23 KJV

23 Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

Daniel 6:23 AMPC

*23 Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel should be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and **no hurt of any kind was found on him** because he believed in (relied on, adhered to, and trusted in) his God.*

The most important statement in the verse above is why Daniel was not hurt. He believed in his God or the Word...Faith in God saved Daniel from the mouth of the lion. Daniel wasn't saved from going into the Lion's Den, but Daniel proved he would not be disobedient even if he had to go thru a "Lion's Den".

The story of Daniel in the Lion's Den is not about "as long as I am obedient I won't go through a Lion's Den" or that "I get to live to be 120 years old". It shows or is revealing to us that the greatest trials of life require the greatest faith in God.

James 2:26 AMPC

26 For as the human body apart from the spirit is lifeless, **so faith apart from [its] works of obedience is also dead.**

Isaiah 55:8-9 AMPC

8 For **My thoughts are not your thoughts,** neither are **your ways My ways,** says the Lord.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are **My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.**

Regardless of the outcome of what I will go through, or someone I love goes through, will I still be habitually obedient?

Psalms 139 GNT

1 Lord, **you have examined me and you know me.**

2 **You know everything I do;** from far away **you understand all my thoughts.**

3 You see me, whether I am working or resting; you know all my actions.

4 Even **before I speak,** you already know what I will say.

5 You are all around me on every side; **you protect me** with your power.

6 Your knowledge of me is too deep; it is beyond my understanding.

7 Where could I go to escape from you? Where could I get away from your presence?

8 If I went up to heaven, you would be there; if I lay down in the world of the dead, you would be there.

9 If I flew away beyond the east or lived in the farthest place in the west,

10 you would be there to lead me, you would be there to help me.

11 I could ask the darkness to hide me or the light around me to turn into night,

12 but even darkness is not dark for you, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are the same to you.

13 You created every part of me; you put me together in my mother's womb.

14 **I praise you because you are to be feared; all you do is strange and wonderful. I know it with all my heart.**

15 When my bones were being formed, carefully put together in my mother's womb, when I was growing there in secret, you knew that I was there—

16 you saw me before I was born. **The days allotted to me had all been recorded in your book, before any of them ever began.**

17 O God, how difficult I find your thoughts; how many of them there are!

18 If I counted them, they would be more than the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.

19 O God, how I wish you would kill the wicked! How I wish violent people would leave me alone!

20 They say wicked things about you; they speak evil things against your name.

21 **O Lord, how I hate those who hate you! How I despise those who rebel against you!**

22 I hate them with a total hatred; I regard them as my enemies.

23 **Examine me, O God, and know my mind; test me, and discover my thoughts.**

24 **Find out if there is any evil in me and guide me in the everlasting way.**

God openly honored Daniel's faith for the purpose of showing His glory to others... including the King. That is not always the case, as God may choose to be glorified by permitting a trusted servant to be martyred with others, as were the faithful servants (in Hebrews 11:33-38).

Hebrews 11:33-38 GNT

33 Through faith they fought whole countries and won. They did what was right and received what God had promised. They shut the mouths of lions,

34 put out fierce fires, escaped being killed by the sword. They were weak, but became strong; they were mighty in battle and defeated the armies of foreigners.

*35 Through faith women received their dead relatives raised back to life. **Others**, refusing to accept freedom, died under torture in order to be raised to a better life.*

36 Some were mocked and whipped, and others were put in chains and taken off to prison.

37 They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they were killed by the sword. They went around clothed in skins of sheep or goats—poor, persecuted, and mistreated.

*38 **The world was not good enough for them!** They wandered like refugees in the deserts and hills, living in caves and holes in the ground.*

Hebrews 11:38 AMPC

*38 **[Men] of whom the world was not worthy**—roaming over the desolate places and the mountains, and [living] in caves and caverns and holes of the earth.*

Daniel 6:24 KJV

24 And the king commanded, and **they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives;** and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or **ever they came at the bottom of the den.**

Daniel 6:24 AMPC

24 And the king commanded, and **those men who had accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions, they, their children, and their wives;** and **before they ever reached the bottom of the den,** the lions had overpowered them and had broken their bones in pieces.

This is a sad scene for those who accused Daniel. They were eaten by the lions even before their bodies hit the ground in the den...their families were destroyed as well.

This seems cruel, but perhaps it was so this would never happen in their families again. They had spoken their own punishment on Daniel. The king just gave them the same opportunity as Daniel, but, they had no God to call on, and they were eaten. Those who accused Daniel unjustly have brought about their own ruin.

Daniel 6:25 KJV

25 **Then** king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

Daniel 6:25 AMPC

25 **Then** King Darius wrote to all peoples, nations, and languages [in his realm] that dwelt in all the earth: May peace be multiplied to you!

“**Then**” is used primarily as an adverb to indicate time (at that past/future time), sequence (next in order), or logic (in that case/therefore). It connects ideas by showing what happens after something else or what follows as a consequence of.

Daniel 6:26 KJV

26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom **men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.**

Daniel 6:26 AMPC

26 I make a decree that in all my royal dominion men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for **He is the living God, enduring and steadfast forever, and His kingdom shall not be destroyed and His dominion shall be even to the end [of the world].**

This is the statement of peace (v. 25) that Darius sent to all the people. This is a statement that Daniel's God is God. Belief in God cannot be legislated, but that is what Darius wants here, he believes, and he wants all of his subjects to believe in the one true God.

Daniel 6:27 KJV

27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Daniel 6:27 AMPC

27 He is a Savior and Deliverer, and He works signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth—He Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Darius can't contain what he feels about Daniel's God, because He did the impossible, by saving Daniel from the lions. He saw that Daniel was the same in his obedience to God regardless of the situation or the possible outcome.

Daniel 6:28 KJV

*28 So this Daniel **prospered** in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*

Daniel 6:28 AMPC

28 So this [man] Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Something intended for bad had turned into something really great. Darius elevated Daniel to the very highest position next to himself...even Darius needed a Daniel in his life.

"It Is Well with My Soul" was written by Horatio Spafford in 1873 after his four daughters died in a tragic transatlantic ship collision. Despite suffering massive financial loss in the 1871 Great Chicago Fire and losing his children, Spafford wrote the lyrics as a testimony of faith, peace, and trust in God while traveling over the spot where his daughters drowned.

When peace like a river, attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

Chorus

It is well

With my soul

It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul

Chorus

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!

Chorus



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