

Liars, Laws and Lions...

Daniel Chapter 6

Introduction

This is one of the most well known chapters in the Bible – the famous story of Daniel in the lions’ den. The story starts with Darius, the new king, wanting to reorganize the government of his conquered kingdom so that it conformed to his own leadership goals. But a conflict was brought to light...

Honesty versus corruption (Daniel 6 v 1 to 4)

- How do these verses show that Darius suspected that the officers he appointed were not doing their job honestly?
- What made Daniel different? Would Daniel have made a good company employee? Why?
- Why did the other administrators oppose Daniel? What was their motive?

Believing versus scheming (Daniel 6 v 5 to 14)

- Notice the cunning speech of the administrators. Why did Darius put the decree in writing, even though later he regretted it?
- What was Daniel’s response? How did Daniel pray? Where did he pray? How often did he pray? What did he pray for?
- What might have happened if Daniel had kept his windows closed?
- In the early days of the church the apostles facing persecution said, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5 v 29). How was Daniel an example? How do you explain his peace and courage?
- Why was Darius “greatly distressed” (v 14)? How did he show his feelings?

God’s power versus man’s authority (Daniel 6 v 15 to 23)

- Daniel faced lions because of his beliefs. What are some of the penalties that Christians face today because of their beliefs?
- Imagine the king’s relief when he heard Daniel’s voice. In Daniel’s reply how does he give glory to God, yet at the same time show honour to the king?
- An angel protected Daniel. In what ways does God protect those who trust in him?
- Do you think Christians are immune to evil and danger?

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God's glory versus man's disgrace (Daniel 6 v 24 to 28)

- How does Darius' second decree (v 26) differ from his first (v 7)? Note the harsh Persian justice given to the false accusers in v 24.
- Then note how God receives praise and glory from a pagan ruler, whose decree would be published throughout the ancient world. What is ironical about this?
- How would this remarkable miracle of deliverance have encouraged the Jewish exiles?

Prayer –

Lord we pray for those suffering persecution because of their faith.

Help us to remember that whatever difficulties we face – the fiery furnace or the roaring lions – we are in your care, and you will work things out for your purpose and glory.

Help us to cast our cares upon you, knowing that you care for us.

Amen.