

Corresponds to Programs 91, 92

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV and KJV.

Daniel 6 – Parts 1 & 2 STUDY GUIDE

DANIEL 6 – PART 1

Daniel 6:1-3

Daniel, once a major player in the administration of the Babylonian government, is now placed in a similar role in the Medo-Persian kingdom. Not only so, but King Darius is so impressed with the spirit of Daniel that he considers placing him over the entire kingdom.

The larger picture of Daniel 6 gives us a glimpse into the war in heaven and the envy and jealousy that took root in the heart of Lucifer, leading him to rebel against Christ and God. Daniel is a type of Christ: he has the spirit of Christ, and is honest, trustworthy, void of pride and self-assertion. Eventually, Daniel is thrown into a lion's den that is sealed with a stone and the king's seal, left to die.

Daniel 6:4-9

Once again, Daniel finds himself as a political candidate, but this time it includes some powerful opposition from other politicians. Daniel stays focused on God, on prayer, on being faithful to the king he serves, and the Lord he follows, no matter what political moves others make against him. These rulers of Medo-Persia are trying to find some mud on Daniel, but they are unable to. They then resort to lying tactics, so typical in politics. All the rulers collaborate on a big lie, claiming that they have all consulted together to make a decree for the king to sign. However, they deliberately left someone—Daniel—out of that consultation. He was

the key player who would have objected to the new law being signed by the king, if only they had given him a voice.

There is also a lot of flattery in politics. This flattery is the reason why Darius ends up signing the decree into law. The lying politicians don't want to be accountable to Daniel, an honest man, or to the king they claim to revere. They resort to lies and flattery in order to deceive the king into signing the decree. Daniel 6 is true-to-life for us today. That is why it

is so important to recognize deception, lying, and flattery for what it is. We may not know what's going on behind the scenes, but as soon as someone starts flattering, we need to back up and get into our prayer chamber. And that is exactly what Daniel does.

Looking also to the parallel between Daniel 6 and Revelation 13, we see the Medo-Persian empire making laws that cannot be changed, and following this with a death decree. The earthly power from the "sea" in Revelation 13:1-2, has feet like a "bear." According to Daniel 7, the "bear" represents Medo-Persia (Daniel 7:5). Therefore, one of the characteristics of the earthly power from the sea in Revelation 13 is the idea of infallibility: making laws regarding worship that cannot be changed, following them up with a death decree. In Daniel 6, we have an insight for understanding Revelation 13 and the "feet of the bear."



“So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, ‘Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.’”

DANIEL 6:16

Daniel 6:10, 11

There are several helpful insights regarding Daniel's experience here:

KEY SCRIPTURES

Dan. 6:3 DANIEL... AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT WAS IN HIM

Dan. 6:10 HE KNELT DOWN ON HIS KNEES AND PRAYED

Dan. 6:16 YOUR GOD WILL DELIVER YOU

Dan. 6:22 GOD SHUT THE LIONS' MOUTHS

- Daniel was open about his worship of God.
- The spies caught Daniel disobeying civil law by praying and worshipping God.
- Daniel purposed to stay true to his God, especially when so much was at stake, including his life.
- When your life is on the line, it is not the time to compromise your faith in God.
- Daniel was not only praying, Daniel gave thanks! What for? For courage to witness for God, for deliverance ahead of time, or whatever God was about to do in this situation. Thank You, heavenly Father!
- Daniel 6 reminds us that God wants to remove our self-focus and self-concern, and help us to keep our focus on Him when we face difficult trials.

DANIEL 6 - PART 2

Daniel 6:12-15

One vital takeaway from these verses is found in the fact that Darius is displeased with himself. One of the key characteristics of good leadership is a willingness to take responsibility, especially for mistakes we make. We don't see much of this quality in politics today, but Darius has it. The king realized that he was duped by the very men whom he probably had questions about to begin with (which is why he had wanted to place Daniel over all of them). Now the king has to obey those who are supposed to obey him. He was taken in by their flattery and placed in this very difficult position. Unlike Daniel, these subordinate leaders were trying to take over and they did. They are making the king do something he does not want to do. That is how the devil often works in our lives. He lies, flatters, and deceives us into doing something we never would have done had we known the end from the beginning.

Now the king's main concern is not for himself, but for Daniel. The king messed up and it's going to cost Daniel his life. Darius does everything he can, working as long as he can, pushing as hard as he can, to get Daniel out of this situation.

The principles Darius is revealing are Christlike:

- Darius takes responsibility = Christ took responsibility for our sin
- Darius is concerned about Daniel, not himself = Christ is concerned about us, not Himself

People often overcome lies and deception when God's people stand up for the truth. We will see this again on a much larger scale in the last days.

The governors refer to Daniel's past, that he was a captive of Judah, as if to use that against him. This same tactic that was used against Jesus (born of "fornication" since Joseph wasn't His father), will be used against those who follow Christ

(John 8:41). Bringing up questions about our past in order to undermine our present is one of the devil's chief strategies. When the devil reminds us of our past, we need to remind him of his future (Revelation 20:10).

The governors also accuse Daniel, the very man whom the king can trust the most, of disregarding the king. This false narrative was framed into a law that they tricked the king into signing. Of all the governors, Daniel most honors the king. The others have just deceived the king in order to oust his most trusted official. The devil is a master of perception and deception. He knows how to make people perceive things in a wrong light just like these governors attempted to do, but the king now sees right through them.

Daniel 6:16-20

One key word in these texts is the word "continually." Darius describes Daniel as a man who serves God "continually." This will also be front and center in Daniel 8, where we find the little horn power seeking to take away our continual dedication to God. To serve God continually, to rely upon Him continually, to worship Him continually, is the foundation of the Christian experience. This is what Daniel does, windows wide, heart to heaven, gaze on God, despite the death decree. Daniel is sold out for Jesus—continually.

The question posed to Daniel by Darius is a question that we must personally answer. Do we believe that God is able to deliver us from the lions? The Bible indicates that the devil is "as a roaring lion...seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Do we personally believe that God can deliver us from the devil-lion, from his power, his lies, his deceptions, his misperceptions of God?

Matthew 27:43, 60-66

Here we see another parallel between Christ and Daniel. Like Daniel, Christ is questioned about His God being able to deliver Him from death. And again, after His death, Christ is placed in a tomb with a large stone rolled across the opening, sealed with the Roman seal. Like Daniel, Jesus eventually rises up out of the tomb, unharmed by the roaring lion, the devil. Like Daniel, Jesus is delivered from death.

We also see, in a sense, Darius being a type of God. The king cannot eat or sleep while Daniel is in the lion's den. Our heavenly Father, the Bible states, does not slumber or sleep, especially as He yearns over His wayward children (Psalm 121:1-4).

Daniel 6:21-28

There are two interesting points that we pick up in these verses regarding Darius:

1. It sounds very much like this king is familiar with the Daniel 2 prophecy, for he basically quotes from it regarding God's everlasting kingdom.

2. Like Nebuchadnezzar, Darius brings a salutation of peace to the nations, indicating that his heart has also been transformed by the God of Daniel.

Daniel was focused on witnessing for his God. This was his unwavering mission both under the Babylonians and under the Medo-Persians. And honest-hearted people, even kings (Nebuchadnezzar and Darius), eventually received the light that God shone through Daniel and his faithful friends. There will be honest-hearted people today who, like Darius, are exceedingly glad when truth is vindicated and the God of heaven shows up—when Good conquers and evil is forever vanquished.

Summary

May each one of us choose to worship God no matter what, even if our lives are at stake. May our witness for Jesus be such that others looking on will be convinced that the God we serve continually, will deliver us in the end and vindicate His character of love and grace. And may our witness be a means of bringing many Dariuses to God's kingdom. In Jesus' name, amen. ★

