

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN (Daniel 6)

A. The Position of Daniel (6:1-3)

1. With the new rule of the Medo-Persian Empire, King Darius the Mede appointed Daniel to have a _____ government position for oversight and _____. (vv. 1-2)
 - *Who was Darius the Mede?*
2. Like Joseph in Egypt, Daniel in the Medo-Persian Empire excelled because the _____ was with him (v. 22; Dan. 5:12, 14; Gen. 39:2-3, 21, 23) and because he walked by _____ (v. 23; Heb. 11:22) with a desire to _____ Him (1 Cor. 6:19-20; 10:31). (v. 3)
 - *What Spirit/spirit do believers in Christ have today? (John 14:16-17; 16:13-14; Rom. 8:9; 15:13; Eph. 1:13-14)*

B. The Plot against Daniel (6:4-9)

1. Daniel's two fellow governors and the satraps under him sought to accuse and frame him for wrongdoing, but Daniel was _____ and they could find no fault in him despite nearly _____ years of government service. (v. 4)
 - *Who was Daniel really serving throughout this time? (Eph. 6:5-7; Col. 3:22-24)*
 - *What was likely the motive behind this attempt to frame Daniel? (Dan. 6:13; Prov. 24:1, 19; Acts 7:9; Gal. 5:26)*
2. The government officials, led by the other two governors and the satraps, conspired together to pressure King Darius into creating an _____ law (Esther 1:19; 8:8) that all prayers and petitions must be directed to the king. (vv. 5-9)
 - *Did this law (v. 7) necessarily mean that Darius was to be worshiped as a god?*

C. The Prayer of Daniel (6:10-11)

1. Daniel _____ broke the new Medo-Persian law by continuing to pray to God. (v. 10; 1:8)
 - *What does this tell us again about civil disobedience? (Dan. 3:16-18)*

2. Daniel had a longstanding practice of _____ prayer throughout each day. (vv. 10-11; Ps. 55:17; 1 Thess. 5:17)

- *Is there a certain posture by which we must pray? (Eph. 3:14)*
- *Is there a certain direction with which we must pray today? (1 Kings 8:35, 38, 44, 48; John 4:20-24; Phil. 3:20)*
- *What did Daniel pray about? (Jer. 29:10-14; Dan. 6:10-11; 9:1-3; Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Thess. 5:18)*

D. The Prosecution of Daniel (6:12-17)

1. Knowing his law was irreversible, King Darius was displeased with _____ and sought for a possible _____ in the law to exonerate Daniel. (vv. 12-14)
2. King Darius had no recourse but to _____ Daniel and his fate to Daniel's God. (vv. 15-17)

E. The Protection of Daniel (6:18-24)

1. The Lord was working in Darius to _____ him to Himself. (vv. 18-20; 11:1; John 12:32; 16:8)
2. Daniel survived in the lions' den because God protected him through _____ (3:25, 28; Gen. 16:7-13; 22:15-16; Exod. 3:2-4; 23:20-21; Judg. 6:11-12, 20-22; 13:20-22) and because Daniel _____ in God through this trial (Heb. 11:33). (vv. 21-24)

F. The Praise of Daniel's God (6:25-28)

1. The real focus of this historical account is not Daniel, Darius, or the lions' den but the _____ who _____ those who trust in Him. (vv. 25-27; 2 Tim. 4:17)
 - *What is the ultimate purpose of our trials? (1 Peter 4:16)*
2. As a result of his faith, Daniel was a _____ for the Lord to the lost Gentiles around him and the Lord _____ him in his endeavors. (v. 28)