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Daniel 6

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Daniel 6.

Topics.

- King Darius appoints leaders over his kingdom.
- Daniel became distinguished above all the other presidents.
- The presidents and satraps plot to entrap Daniel.
- The presidents and satraps report Daniel to the King.
- Daniel is cast into the lion's den.
- Daniel is delivered from the lions.
- The presidents and satraps are cast into the lion's den.
- King Darius exalts Daniel.

NOTE: for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

DANIEL 6:1-2

King Darius Appoints Leaders over his Kingdom.

- **Daniel 6:1-2:** It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; ²and over them three presidents, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss.

Darius the Mede: was a common name for Medo Persian rulers, Darius the Mede was an officer in the army of Cyrus, he was not heir to the throne, but nevertheless he was made king. He seems to have exercised authority at the same time with Cyrus. On the very night King Belshazzar of Babylon made a great feast for his concubines, and a thousand of his lords and their wives and drank wine from the vessels of gold and silver that king Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from God's temple in Jerusalem, Belshazzar was killed and Darius the Mede captured the kingdom of Babylon (Dan 5:1-2) (Dan 5:30-31).

Satraps: was an official title for a provincial ruler in the Persian Empire during the reign of Cyrus the Great (550-529 BC) for governors who represented the king, and had authority over native rulers in newly conquered regions. In some cases, as in Egypt, the former ruler was allowed to remain on the throne as a satrap, bearing allegiance to Persia. Darius the Great (521-486 BC) organized the empire into twenty provinces, each ruled by a satrap who was responsible for its administration, the collection of annual taxes, the organization of the military and the judicial system, and the province's artistic and social development.

Prefects: prefects (prince in KJV) were a satrap, governor or lieutenant of a main province.

Presidents: were the person appointed to have authority over the satraps, Darius appointed Daniel and two others to be the presidents of the one-hundred and twenty satraps.

DANIEL 6:3-5

Daniel became distinguished above all the other Presidents.

- **Daniel 6:3-5:** Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other presidents and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴Then the presidents and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. ⁵Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

Because of Daniel's faithfulness Darius king of the Persians exalted him above the other two presidents and one-hundred and twenty satraps and even planned to set Daniel over the entire kingdom. God rewarded Daniel for his faithfulness not only to God, but to a Gentile King.

The practical application of this today: not only does God delight in our faithfulness toward Him, but also our faithfulness toward whoever has been given authority over us (i.e. parents, employers, governments, police etc.).

Extreme jealousy: the presidents and the satraps were jealous of Daniel's position so they plotted to have him found guilty before the king, but he had done nothing wrong toward Darius so they set out to trap him by his faith.

DANIEL 6:6-9

The Presidents and Satraps plot to entrap Daniel.

- **Daniel 6:6-9:** Then these presidents and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! ⁷All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." ⁹Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.

The prefects, satraps, counsellors, and governors manipulate the king into signing a contract that stops everyone in Darius kingdom from making an appeal or request to any god other than the king.

Ponder for a moment: imagine if a leader of a nation today, made a law that if any person of any faith was seen praying to their god they would be executed. No-nation on planet earth would accept such a law, yet Darius was able to enforce it on the entire kingdom of the Medes and Persians. The closest thing we would have similar to this scenario today is most likely the Taliban who through force are imposing their religion onto others.

NOTICE: Darius the King was a powerful king who was looked up to as a god, yet if all his surrounding officers joined together, they were the ones who actually controlled the law of the land.

DANIEL 6:10

Daniel Prays.

- **Daniel 6:10:** When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

Daniel is not going out to pray to be rebellious to the king and the satraps, praying three times a day was his daily routine.

One of the great secrets to Daniel's faith: was that God was more valued than Daniel's own life. In some circles of Christianity today God is presented as a kind of all-powerful Santa Claus who has a bag of material blessings to hand out to everyone who trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ, it is taught that the LORD is the King of the earth and if you are a king's child you should have it sweet. The unspoken or underlying message in that comes through in this mistaken teaching is that if person's life is in crisis it is because they either have sin or they lack the faith required to attain God's blessing. But this is not how God is presented in the Bible, certainly God does bless, but that does not mean that a Christian's life will always be sweet. God's eternal blessing and the greatest gift any human can ever receive is seen in the man with nails driven through his hands and feet hanging on the cross, no greater gift can be given than a person's lays down their life for you. This is exactly what Christ has done for you and me, what can be greater than this, all our sins are forgiven in Christ and in Christ we have eternal life these are the true blessings of the Christian faith. Daniel understood this and counted his life as of no value compared to knowing God and being faithful to him, death to Daniel was a minor issue because he knew the God, he prayed to was well able to raise him up again. The faithful of the Bible focused on eternal blessings they lived in heavenly places, and were not chasing after the temporary financial or materialistic blessings that this world has to offer.

DANIEL 6:11-13

The Presidents and Satraps report Daniel to the King.

- **Daniel 6:11-13:** Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. ¹²Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, "O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." ¹³Then they answered and said before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."

NOTICE: how cleverly the king's officials manipulate him, they ask him a question that brings about the answer they want and then tell the king that Daniel has continued to pray to his God. The satraps have left Darius no choice but to throw Daniel into the lion's den.

Ponder for a moment: the enormous joy and self-satisfaction the kings officials must have been feeling at this moment, they have succeeded in their plan (or at least think they have) in getting rid of Daniel, but they are in for a big shock!

DANIEL 6:14-15

The King wants to Free Daniel.

- **Daniel 6:14-15:** Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he laboured till the sun went down to rescue him. ¹⁵Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed."

The men obviously knew Darius had affection toward Daniel, this no doubt is the reason they cleverly trapped him in his words before telling him about Daniel's faithfulness to his God. Poor Darius is in an impossible situation, he wants to free Daniel so much so that he laboured all day

trying to find ways out of the law that bound him to throwing Daniel to the lions, but there was no way out. It is interesting to notice that during the Old Testament era and much of the New Testament a person's word was binding, they didn't have solicitors to cleverly twist the law, what a person spoke was what had to be done. This was true of those who believed in God and even those who didn't. How the times have changed many of our government leaders will freely say anything today to get elected and once elected their words mean nothing, such was not the case in the time of the Medes and Persians even if a man's life was at stake what was spoken could not be changed, a person's word was that valued.

DANIEL 6:16-18

Daniel is cast into the Lion's Den.

- **Daniel 6:16-18:** Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!" ¹⁷And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

How amazing is this: the most powerful king of the known world at this time and who worshipped other gods had enormous affection for Daniel, so much so that he could not sleep, he commanded that no-one disturb him, he fasted and no doubt prayed that Daniel's God would deliver Daniel from the lions.

DANIEL 6:19-23

Daniel is delivered from the Lions.

- **Daniel 6:19-23:** Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" ²¹Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm." ²³Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Darius the king had faith that Daniel's God was able to deliver Daniel he just didn't know if He would, so he races to the den and sees Daniel is OK. Imagine his joy after spending so much time in mental anguish trying to find ways to save Daniel. What a fantastic experience for Daniel to be thrown in with the king of beasts which would normally tear him apart, but instead they act like tame pussy cats.

Ponder for a moment: Darius the Mede was a great king, and by war has defeated Babylon, multitudes would have been killed and slaughtered. Daniel amongst all of this takes control of the only thing that he has power over which is himself. In faithfulness to God Daniel manifests the fruits of the Spirit of God to the king (i.e. faithfulness and loyalty) while at the same time remaining (at the risk of his own life) faithful to God. Darius knowing the lack of character in his official's would have discerned Daniel's integrity and loyalty not only to himself but also Daniel's faith toward His God and he would have respected Daniel for it.

NOTICE: Daniel says tells Darius, "God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths," then exalts the King, Daniel would have understood that the king's officials had purposely and cleverly manipulated Darius into an impossible situation.

The Presidents and Satraps are cast into the Lion's Den.

- **Daniel 6:24:** And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

Picture, Darius's enormous, joy when he saw Daniel was OK and contrast it to the horror and terror his officials would have been feeling. Darius has now seen two amazing miracles.

1. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego saved from the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:26-27)
2. Daniel delivered from the lions' mouths.

DANIEL 6:25-28

King Darius Exalts Daniel.

- **Daniel 6:25-28:** Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. ²⁶I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. ²⁷He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions." ²⁸So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

King Darius wrote a decree to all the peoples that dwell in all the earth stating that Daniel's God:

- Is to be feared because of His awesome power.
- Endures forever and is a living God (contrasted to an idol i.e. a block of wood).
- Dominion is forever and His kingdom will never be destroyed.
- Rescues and delivers and works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth.
- Saved Daniel from the power of the lions.

Daniel lived and prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian. The Medes early worship was polytheistic and conducted by priests and consisted of hymns, sacrifices and a peculiar ceremony called Soma, in which an-intoxicating liquor is offered to the gods, and then consumed by the priests who drink until they were drunk. They believed in real spiritual intelligence divided into good and bad.

At the head of the good beings was one, supreme intelligence who was worshipped as supreme creator, preserver and governor of the universe, he was called Ahuro-Mazdo and was the source of all good.

Cyrus: (Cyrus the Great) the Great king of Persia toppled the Median rulers and turned Media into the Kingdom of Persia. He then conquered the Empire of Babylon and established the Persian Empire as the pre-eminent power of the region. He gave the Jews written permission to return to their homeland and rebuild Jerusalem and the LORD'S temple earning the respect and goodwill of the Jews.

Darius I: (Darius the Great) (a member of a royal Persian family), ascended the throne and reorganized the entire Persian Empire, earning the title Darius the Great. Following the kingship of Cyrus and Cambyses II (previous kings of Persia) he also earned the respect and goodwill of the Jews and allowed them to complete the temple of God.

Persia and Iran: is now known as Iran that is: the "land of the Aryans". In 1935 the government requested that the name Iran be used instead of Persia.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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