

Daniel 6

The Night Lions Fasted

Ch 5 > DANIEL told if he could INTERPRET Handwriting on Palace Wall

Belshazzar PROMISED to Appoint Daniel to 3rd Highest Position in BABYLON

“Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.” Daniel 5.16

As Step in Ch 6: NEW Empire Established on Territory – Belshazzar BURIED
 God of Sovereign Providence put Servant DANIEL into High Office in PERSIA
 vs. 1,2 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss.

SUFFER LOSS – Ref. what is Highly VALUED in Most Nations TODAY

Make as MUCH MONEY as POSSIBLE – No Money, No Funny!

Belshazzar FOCUSED on Extravagance / Darius focuses on ORGANIZATION

1. Boss gets Bamboozled

a. Jealousy

Daniel did NOT Withdraw from WORLD to avoid being STAINED by IT

Fully Engaged with service of Babylonian EMPIRE for 50,60,70? years

vs. 3-5 Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. Then the high officials 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. Then 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.”

Kings Court filled w/ Young Men > Who had their OWN Great AMBITIONS

Wanted to Get Daniel Out > So they could Climb Corporate Ladder

Their TWISTED MINDS come up with the IDEAL PLAN

Only way to TRAP Daniel was by something in his RELIGION

Knew Daniel would BETRAY the King before he would Betray His GOD

b. Pride

vs. 6-8 Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, “O King Darius, live forever! All the high officials 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. Now, 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.”

1 Month there is ONE God & 1 Mediator btwn God & Man > Darius the Mede

There is something intoxicating about being the sole channel of the gods, a sort of surrogate deity, even if the term expires in thirty days. Dale Ralph Davis

DARIUS was declared GOD of One MONTH > Darius Almighty before Bruce

Like Politicians wanting to Please People > put Gay Pride Month on Calendar

Approach to KING is MASTERPIECE of Political Deception for ILLICIT Ends

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16.18

v. 9 Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.

NOT like Closing ONE Church in Certain PLACE For a Certain TIME

Like order given to Apostles after PENTECOST > Total Shut Down

NO PRAYER in NO PLACE at NO TIME by NO PEOPLE

Except PROUD MOCKERY they Organized in NAME of MAGISTRATE

2. Regulations get Ridiculous

a. Stupidity

v. 7 All the high officials 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.

LIONS Den: History Long LINE of TORTURE invented by INSECURE Nations

DARIUS knew it was BIG Job to be KING over an EMPIRE

What he SHOULD have Known it is IMPOSSIBLE Job to be GOD over Empire

v. 8 Now, 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.”

UNBREAKABLE Law: BREAKABLE Man is God

ONLY a Month!?! But NO Man knows what will Happen TOMORROW!

King BREATHING Out THREATS >> his Breath is GIFT from GOD

vs. 14,15 Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. Then 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.”

At FIRST Darius THOT Law EXALTED him > Now Sees ENTRAPS him

LAW Bamboozled into Making DESTROYS Best SERVANT in all EMPIRE

DISLOYAL Servants SCHEMED against the ONLY Loyal Servant Darius had

Ch 3 NEB was FURIOUS when 3 Hebrew Homeboys NOT BOW Down Statue

KING Darius is FRUSTRATED that STUPID LAW created such a MESS

The irony here is that the law cannot even be repealed by the king himself! An law that has its ostensible purpose the intention to set up the king as an ultimate authority actually imprisons him to its own authority. Tremper Longman III

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. Psalm 14.1-3

b. Sin

v. 11 Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.

Left POSTS of Service to SPY on One Guy who was REALLY Serving People
As PRAY to True GOD we gain POWER to Love HIM and our NEIGHBORS
But these JEALOUS Colleagues Not Love Neighbor Daniel OR his GOD

v. 12 Then 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.”

RUDE Reminder to the King that he is BOUND by his OWN LAW

MEN made a COMFORTABLE Living to Advance PURPOSE of their Nation
Thot PURPOSE of their Nation was make Sure they had Comfortable LIVING

They could not make a rational or just case against Daniel...To all open and rational minds, God’s truth clearly bears the evidence of its own sheer intrinsic worth. Men have to turn away in their perversity – against the evidence of their own reason – to deny they are being confronted by the true God. Ronald Wallace

vs. 13,14,16,17 Then 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.” Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him...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!” And 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.

STONE made Escape IMPOSSIBLE / SEAL made it ILLEGAL

King’s Law DEMANDS Punishment – but his Heart Cries for PARDON

Breaks LAW of Medes & Persians --- He PRAYS to the LIVING God

Thoroughly FRUSTRATED Man – Exhausted all his Resources to Free Daniel

Asks TRUE SOVEREIGN to be STRONGER than LIONS and GIVE LIFE

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. James 4.17

c. Satan

vs. 12-15 Then 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?”...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 thief comes to kill, and steal, and destroy...

John 10.10

Am I saying that GOV’T Bureaucracy comes from the PIT of HELL?

If that Bureaucracy INTENDS to DISHONOR Name of Jesus

AND DESTROY His Church – that is EXACTLY where it COMES From!

PARADOX of Church in Fallen World

Jesus RESPECTED Herod and Pilate KNOWING they would EXECUTE Him

Peter & Paul HONORED CAESAR AND were KILLED by Him

Romans 13 – Obey the Government / Revelation 13 – Government tool of Satan

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.
1 John 5.19

Such Irrational HATRED and MURDER against People who FOLLOW God
Cain killing Bro ABEL– Joseph enslaved by Brothers - SAUL attacking DAVID
PROPHETS of God – Rejected, Sawn in 2, Stoned, and DESPISED
Same HATRED Unleashed Against Elderly Jews in Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA

...the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience
Ephesians 2.2

the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ
2 Corinthians 4.4

Daniel 6 does NOT Describe an EXCEPTIONAL Situation, No...

It's EXEMPLARY Situation – God's People been UNDER Attack Long Time

Believers are still called to Stand Strong for True God in all Foreign Lands

If we practice our religion on the reservation and do not attempt to bring it out into the real world, the world will tolerate us. But if we determine to take a stand on any important issue on the basis of genuine religious principle, the fury of our secular society will break all bounds.
James Boice

3. Servant stays the Same

a. Polite

Some INTERPRETERS Wonder is this LAW saying Darius is GOD, or
Is Darius the ONE MEDIATOR people must Go Thru to Approach their gods?

EITHER Way – DARIUS will Not Stand between DANIEL and his GOD

NOT PRAYING would have kept Daniel SAFE

Daniel's ENEMIES knew he would Rather DIE than DENY his GOD

Rather be thrown to LIONS than Forfeit his DAILY Routine of PRAYER

v. 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...

Daniel went HOME and did what he ALWAYS DID – Prayed to God

Did not make SPECTACLE in the Public SQUARE

He does NOT PROTEST > he PRAYS

Not BARGAIN with King DARIUS > He BLESSES KING Heaven & Earth

He is NOT FLAUNTING, but NEITHER is he HIDING – Business as USUAL

If the SPIES want to FIND him they should KNOW Right where to LOOK

DANIEL was ONLY ADULT in the ROOM – Only Man who KNEW TRUTH

KING that he was GOD and his ADVISORS that THEY Manipulated King!

Only DANIEL Knew God Not given Up His Throne – Still REIGNED in Glory

TENSION builds in this Chapter – EVIL Acts against Daniel SWIRL Around

He REMAINS Silent thru All the SCHEMING and the SILINESS

1st Words > v. 21 Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever!

b. Perseverance

v. 10 ...He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.



Manasseh Dramani – Ugandan Pastor – My Student, Elder, and Friend

Did what he Always did when he was my Roommate on MOYO Mission
SANG Hymns every Morning at 5 am – DREARY DRONE in the Darkness!

There is no speech or inner turmoil in the narrative...Daniel's unflinching obedience. He does not question, doubt, or worry, he acts. He does not bow toward Darius but toward Jerusalem. Tremper Longman III

THREE Times a DAY – Daniel does not MISS Meeting w/ God

Many of us would have OBEYED Darius' Law by our NEGLIGENCE!

If I heard of Such a 30 Day Edict – Get on plane to some SUNNY BEACH
We go 30 Days or MORE – Without OPENING our BIBLE and PRAYING!

I call to God, and the Lord will save me. Evening and morning and at noon...
Psalm 55.16,17

It is indeed a wondrous miracle that God preserves one of his children in the lions' den, but it is no less a miracle that God's gracious hand saved Daniel when all Babylon – goaded on by Satan – attempted to pry apart those two aged hands tightly clasped in prayer.
H. Veldkamp

Daniel's HOPE Not in City NEB BUILT > In CITY Neb DESTROYED
On the ADVICE of SOLOMON – Daniel PRAYED toward JERUSALEM

Solomon: "If they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near, yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, 'We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly' ...and pray to you toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name, then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause..."
1 Kings 8.46-49

Daniel PAINFULLY Aware – Jerusalem lay DESOLATE, Temple Destroyed
BABYLONIANS he served SO Long had TORN Down their TEMPLE
But in FAITH he Prayed to the LORD who PROMISED New Covenant

NEW Temple would Come JERUSALEM > DESTROYED for his Deliverance
Temple – Meeting Place of God & Man

Jesus Christ – God's TRUE Temple – Would be SLAIN so we could be SAVED

v. 5 Then 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."

We can see in OUR Nations – Exceeding Scrutiny of this in HIGH Offices
If there are SKELETONS in their Closets – MEDIA or Enemies will FIND!

For 70 years DANIEL has been DOING what JEREMIAH told him to do...

Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Jeremiah 29.5-7

CHALLENGE in Chapter 3 – Whether to BOW Down to Statue of NEB...

REFUSAL to PARTICIPATE in IDOLATROUS Religious Practice

Ch 6 > REFUSAL to REFRAIN from PROPER Worship of GOD

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Timothy 3.12,13

c. Protection

vs. 18-22 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him. Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. As 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?”

NEB TAUNTED 3 young HEBREWS who would Not Bow to his GOLD Image
 “And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?” Daniel 3.15

King DARIUS tried playing GOD for 30 Days – Could Not Meet Qualifications

DARIUS VOICE was filled with ANXIETY and CONCERN

v. 22 My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me...

God's Laws of NATURE and MORALITY are PERFECT and Righteous

God's law reflects what God wants...God's law is always the perfect expression of his character...God knows himself perfectly and knows the consequences of his acts and pronouncements perfectly. Tremper Longman III

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar...our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods..." Daniel 3.16-18

God calls some to win by living. Others are called to win by dying. But in life or death God rules and we are called to serve him. Will we do it? The world needs those who know God and who will live for his righteousness even when the entire culture turns ferociously against it. James Boice

v. 23 Then 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.

Daniel had MORE COMFORTABLE Night in LION PIT
Than DARIUS did in his LUXURY PALACE

Daniel's INNOCENCE is CONFIRMED – Passed Safely thru ORDEAL
Not Really EXECUTION – More of LION Ordeal – like WATER Ordeal
God's SERVANT was VINDICATED – Found BLAMELESS

v. 22 ...because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm."

NOT MORALISM or WORKS Righteous > Daniel Not saying PERFECT
This is FULL GOSPEL of our WHOLE Christ – Forgiven AND Filled
Not Enough to be COVERED by Blood – If Not CONSECRATED by Spirit
CHEAP Gospel to say Because I am Promised Heaven I can Now live like Hell
Jesus makes CLEAR – Branch bears NO FRUIT – Cut Off – Fire – Burned

When you read how the righteous offer up their blamelessness to God, don't over-spiritualize it. Don't treat it as perfectionism. Don't think of it as legalism. Don't demean it as a defective part of the "old covenant." Take it for what it is: a godly man, who knows he is a sinner, pardoned for God's name's sake, justified by grace, trusting God's mercy, depending on God's Spirit, taking refuge in God's protection, delighting in God's beauty, keeping God's covenant, and therefore walking in integrity and honesty and uprightness. John Piper

v. 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.

Verse is NOT Politically Correct – Offends our Modern Sensibilities

Reminder that God is MAKER and JUDGE of ALL – Old and Young

ONE Day we will All Die and Face Him – Unless you REPENT you will Perish

DARIUS Law set into MOTION Series of UNRIGHTEOUS Events

God's LAW will always RESULT in RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

The law of the Lord is perfect...the precepts of the Lord are right...the commandment of the Lord is pure...the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. Psalm 19.7-9

d. Praise

vs. 25-27 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. I 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. He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."

Like NEB, Darius' confesses God's EMPIRE is UNIVERSAL

NOT Confession of ONLY True God – but God who rises Above ALL Others

Again we see WONDER-WORKING Power of SOVEREIGN God

1940 Vincent and Margaret Crossett M's RIGHT Here in CHINA

Served in Village gripped by POVERTY and PAGANISM

Work SLOW & HARD – Much STRUGGLE Small Church Established

Just as SMALL Church Opened – New Gov't – V & M forced to Leave China

Vincent & Margaret went HOME but OPENED PRAYER Windows to CHINA

For 40 yrs Prayed Daily for Small Church – Village – Nation – People of China

40 yrs HEARD Nothing from ANYONE in China, but Kept on PRAYING

Finally the walls of China came down...The Crossetts returned to the village where they left the tiny, struggling group of believers. There was no small church in the village anymore! Instead from that Bible study had grown a church of four thousand people! This body of believers had planted dozens of other churches as well, each with a membership of at least a thousand. All the Crossetts did was pray with their prayer window open to China. The God of Daniel is alive and well.

Rodney Stortz

“This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory’”

Haggai 2.6,7

e. Prospered

v. 28 So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Word PROSPERITY is Greatly MISUNDERSTOOD much of Church TODAY

Just to be CLEAR – Daniel wore GOLD CHAINS but Not Drive MERCEDES!

What did he HAVE to SHOW after 70 YEARS of Babylonian SERVICE

People of Babylon remained LARGELY UNCHANGED

Kings & Empires – Come & Gone – All IDOLATROUS, WICKED, CRUEL

God's Chosen PEOPLE were still CAPTIVE, Foreign Slaves, Far FROM Home
 No National REPENTANCE like JONAH saw in NINEVEH

Not sure where 3 HOMEBOYS Are: DEAD? Another Province – Fallen Away?

DANIEL now OLD, ALONE, ABUSED, ABANDONED, and ATTACKED
 PROPHECY is Spoken WHEN Daniel & Boys just TEENS in Neb's Court

And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus. Daniel 1.21

PROMISE KEEPING God has kept his WORD – 70 years of Fruitful SERVICE

We have seen the Hebrew sage climb the political ladder from captive prisoner to initiate to sage (chapter 1) to chief sage (chapter 2) to administrator over the province of Babylon (chapters 2-3) to the king's personal advisor (chapter 4) to the third ruler of the kingdom (chapter 5) to the prime minister that the king himself intends, and the beginning of chapter 6, to set over the entire kingdom, and does just that at the end of chapter 6. D.N. Fewell

Daniel's PROSPERITY was Being Like Jesus – SUFFERING SERVANT

Only CROSS will lead to CROWN – Only SUFFERING leads to GLORY

COMMUNION -

King DARIUS > In DILEMMA, Laws He made gave Death Sentence to Daniel

King of Heaven & Earth – Living and True God – Sovereign God over All

ALSO caught in a DILEMMA by His OWN DECREES

Holy, True, Righteous, Perfect, Just > All Creatures in His Own Image > NOT

JUSTICE demands PUNISHMENT – Everlasting, Furious, Horrible Separation

ONLY way LIVING GOD get around LEGAL TRAP > Fully Satisfy JUSTICE

Lord Jesus Christ – Father I will Go! – Stand in Place of SINNERS

I will give them my RIGHTEOUSNESS and DIE for their Unrighteousness

Daniel CONDEMNED to die and PLACED in a PIT

Jesus CONDEMNED FOR US – Really DIED! – GRAVE Sealed w STONE

3 days LATER – LIVING GOD – brought LIVING GOD to LIFE Again!

IMPOSSIBLE for Death to HOLD Life-Giving SAVIOR

IN HIS NAME – Invite you to COME – Receive Pardon, Power, Presence

Daniel 6.¹It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; ²and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. ³Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴Then the high officials 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.” ⁶Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, “O King Darius, live forever! ⁷All the high officials 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. ¹⁰When 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. ¹¹Then 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.” ¹⁴Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored 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.” ¹⁶Then 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.

¹⁹Then, 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. ²⁴And 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. ²⁵Then 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.