**Daniel 6**

***SUNDAY NIGHT STUDY****[[1]](#footnote-1)*

***Introductory History:***

1. The history of the Persian Empire involves two groups of people, the Medes and the Persians, who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_forces to conquer the world.
2. In 539 BC, the Medo-Persian Empire came to power by conquering the Babylonians. With the acquisition of the Babylonian Empire, the total land massunder Persian rule \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in size.
3. Eventually, Persia ruledthe Middle East, Egypt, the Caucasus and much of modern-day Pakistan and India. They also had a huge influence on central Asia (modern day Turkey), which they conquered and controlled for centuries.
4. They were never able to substantially break into Europe and fully conquer the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ city states, but they did manage to make the Greeks their avowed enemies.
5. Who was the king of the Medes named Darius mentioned in 5:31 and 6:1?
6. This has been a criticism of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Book of Daniel and its historical context for years, because secular history does not identify a king by this name.
7. However, Greek historian Xenophon did identify a Median king by the name of Cyaxares (II), who was known by his throne name of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. Cyrus, the first king of the Persian empire, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ power with Darius until about two years after the fall of Babylon. The reason for this shared power is that Cyrus did not make a hostile conquest of Media, he did not dethrone this Median king – he reigned with him in a co-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ format.
9. Darius died of natural causes within \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years of the fall of Babylon, and since he had no male heir and Cyrus had married his daughter, Cyrus inherited his position upon his death and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Median and Persian kingdoms in a single throne.
10. Cyrus was Darius’ co-regent, but Darius was officially recognized as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ power in the realm during those two years of co-reigning immediately following the fall of Babylon.
11. God had the prophet Isaiah prophesy concerning \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, by name, more than 100 years before his birthand his subsequent rise to power. Isaiah 44:28-45:1
12. Josephus, the Jewish historian, recorded that Cyrus read Isaiah’s prophecy that he would send the Israelites back to Palestine to rebuild the temple and that he desired to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it.
13. Thus, the Persians under Cyrus were responsible for liberating the Jewish people from Babylonian captivity and encouraging their returnto the land to rebuild Jerusalem and its temple.
14. **Daniel 6:1-2** - The Setting for the Chapter
15. When the Medo-Persian empire conquered the Babylonians, they acquired a ton of geographic territory and did so very quickly. They needed a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to rule it and they needed trustworthy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who already knew the territory and the nuances of culture in each region.
16. Thus, Darius divided his realm in 120 satrapies/provinces and put a satrap (literally a “protector of the realm”) over each province. These 120 then reported to 3 governors, who then reported directly to the king.
    1. Satraps were regional leaders. Darius strategically employed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leaders to managethe affairs of the empire in their respective regions.
    2. Daniel was one of the three \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and this was probably due to the fact that shortly before the fall of Babylon, Daniel was promoted to the third highest position in the entire empire. Daniel was probably in his 80’s by this time and must have posed no threat to Darius!
17. Remember, it was not uncommon for Persian kings to allow conquered leaders to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in positions of authority, although Belshazzar did not make out so well (5:30).
    1. Daniel now steps in one of the three highest positions in the entire Medo-Persian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Their task was to ensure that the satraps were honest in collecting taxes and other revenue.
18. **Daniel 6:3-5** – Daniel Stands Out and is Targeted
19. Daniel 6:3 - Much like Joseph in Egypt, Daniel seemed to have the “golden touch.” He distinguished himself, or better “he stood out” from the others - he was most likely on his way to being the Prime Minister, or the right-hand guy to king even though he was nearing the end of his life.
    1. ***WHY?*** - There was an excellent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in him! This was the Holy Spirit - the same ***EXACT*** Spirit which indwells church-age believers permanently.
    2. This is an incredible thought - because the Holy Spirit indwells you, you can actually “stand out” in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ environments! Your life can stand out compared to others when you walk in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord!
    3. Too many believers do “just enough” in the workplace to get the job done, when they are missing out on an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to excel for their employer and thus cause themselves to stand out and thus bring glory to God.
20. Daniel 6:4 - Notice who is involved in this conversation to get rid of Daniel – ***(1st)***: The Governors, of which there were 2 others, and ***(2nd)***: The Satraps although we are not sure how many satraps were involved. They developed a plan of attack on Daniel:
    1. ***First***: They tried to find something faulty in Daniel’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life (i.e., “concerning the kingdom”) that they could get him punished or removed for and they could not find ***ONE*** thing wrong!
21. The text is clear – the reason they could **NOT** find anything wrong with him was because he was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
22. Faithfulness is doing what is asked of you, faithfulness is doing it when it is asked of you, faithfulness is doing it when you say you will do it, faithfulness is being dependable and being WHO you are supposed to be, WHEN you are supposed to be doing it, and HOW you were instructed to do it!
23. Daniel 6:5 - ***Second***: Since they could **NOT** find anything against Daniel in his secular life due to his faithfulness, they now use his faithfulness \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him. The “chink” in Daniel’s armor was also a result of his faithfulness - This time to his God.
    1. It is interesting to note that their plan to trap him was based upon their confidence in Daniel to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ faithful to his God – this was indeed a backhanded compliment!
    2. They may have known that Jews did not worship idols. The story of the three Hebrew youths who would not disobey God and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ an idol, even in the face of death, may still have been **told** at that time.
24. **Daniel 6:6-9** – Their Devious and Diabolical Plan
25. Daniel 6:6 -This group is said to have “thronged” before the king meaning to go as a group, or to throng as a mob. This communicates a focus on the bustle of a crowd moving together, implying \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
26. This group was trying to convince the king of their plan by using “group” peer pressure, so to speak - “everyone wants this!”
27. Notice who is **NOT** there – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! The king’s most trusted advisor was not consulted, and this is probably the reason the group “thronged” the king. They did not give him time to think this through properly.
28. Daniel 6:7 - Had ***ALL*** the governors of the kingdom consulted together as they said? No! They had not included Daniel in this conversation and thus they \_\_\_\_\_ to the king.
29. These conspirators knew ***TWO*** things for sure: (1) Daniel would remain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and (2) The king would eat up the flattery and chance to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ himself - what a contrast between the two men!
30. Notice too, the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – it was **NOT** discipline, or loss of office, or loss of status, it was DEATH!
31. Being fed to the lions was a barbaric form of capital punishment used by the Medes and Persians to put fear into the heart of any would-be criminal. These lions were purposely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be used as executioners!
32. Daniel 6:8-9 - The decree by the king was established in writing and was done so according to “the law of the Medes and Persians” - This was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, because according to this format, once something was written and recorded, it could **NEVER** be changed.
    1. Most likely the king thought, “Sure, I can do it according to the law of the Medes and Persians…it is only 30 days. It is **NOT** like this is a lifetime thing.”
    2. Additionally, most likely the king was polytheistic, and so he probably thought if he alone was worshipped for 30 days, it would not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all of his other gods too much.
33. **Daniel 6:10–13** - Daniel’s Response and Subsequent Discovery
34. Daniel 6:10 - Daniel knew the decree, and he knew how it had come about (i.e., through mob \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) - Didn’t he know something was up? Shouldn’t he have known they were after him?
35. Why did he **NOT** just pray lying in his bed with his eyes closed? Why did he continue to make such a public showing of his prayer? Why did he pray near an open window? There were so many things he could have done \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for JUST 30 days!
    1. 2 Chronicles 6:36-39 records Solomon’s words which were an encouragement to any future Israelite generation to pray towards \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ during their captivity.
    2. Jeremiah 29:12-14 records Jeremiah’s prophecy as an encouragement to the Israelites to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord during their captivity, and the Lord would return them from captivity.
36. In some ways, it is here that we learn Daniel’s “inner secret” of the ***HOW*** he lived dependently upon the Lord. Although being a busy executive of the Medo-Persian empire, he made time \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to spend with the Lord in dependent prayer, longing for the day of return to the land promised to his forefathers.
37. Daniel made a decision to worship the Lord, and in that sense, he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the lion’s den over apostasy.
38. Daniel 6:11 - Notice in verse 10 that it was Daniel’s “custom” so these men knew exactly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to look for, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to look for it and caught him praying in the act.
    1. Notice also that the men first “assembled” and then “found” Daniel praying. They probably did this so that they had enough \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be sure they had enough evidence and support to convict Daniel before the king.
39. Daniel 6:12-13 - Notice they do not identify Daniel as “one of your governors” or as “prime minister-elect,” but rather “Daniel, who is one of the captives from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” – This is a little racial profiling here. We have seen this throughout the Book of Daniel (See also Daniel 3:12, 5:13)
    1. They make two false accusations against Daniel:
40. ***1st***: They misrepresented Daniel when they asserted that he paid *no attention* to the king. Daniel was loyal to the king, but his God was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_authority than the king.
41. ***2nd:*** They misrepresented Daniel by implying that he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_disregarded the king’s law.
42. **Daniel 6:14-17** – King Darius’ Response to the Situation
43. Daniel 6:14 - The king’s response was one of extreme \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and it is very revealing in a couple of ways:
    1. ***(1st)***: “The king was greatly displeased with himself” – The word “displeased” implies some degree of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or indignation.
       1. He knew he had been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by his governors and satraps and that he had made a very foolish decision. In fact, he was locked into the decision and there was no way out!
       2. Ironically, notice that he was **NOT** displeased with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
    2. ***(2nd)***: “The king set his heart on Daniel to deliver him”
       1. Immediately the king wanted to figure out a way to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Daniel from this awful fate.
       2. The king spent all day (“he labored until sundown”), making every effort to deliver Daniel.
44. Daniel 6:15 - The king was stuck with his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ decision however because of the law of the Medes and the Persians - there was no way out!
    1. The governors and satraps must have recognized his struggle and thus they subtly (or not so subtly) remind him of the rules! They probably should **NOT** have been so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in their reminder to the King – it clearly upset him and they paid for it later (See 5:24).
    2. For a king who was of the mindset that he was deity, and that there were “many” gods to worship, he had exhausted all of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and had nothing to show for it!! He could **NOT** deliver Daniel.
45. Daniel 6:16-17 - Darius’ words to Daniel are significant and express his utter inability to save Daniel himself - he too casts himself on Daniel’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Daniel’s deliverance.
    1. In fact, he seems to speak with confidence - “He ***will*** deliver you,” **NOT** “I ***hope*** He delivers you,” OR “Hopefully, He will deliver you,” OR “***Maybe*** He will deliver you,” BUT “He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ***DELIVER*** you!”
    2. We see the word “deliver” used 3X in this section from verses 14 to 16. What the king could not do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God could do!
    3. It is also important to note that God does not deliver Daniel ***FROM*** the difficulty, but he does bring him \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it safely (See 1 Corinthians 10:13).

While the seal with the signet ring served as proof that the decree had been carried out, it also ensured that no one \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the execution.

Clearly no one would dare break that seal for fear of retribution, but this fact would also serve as absolute proof that God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_delivered Daniel.

1. **Daniel 6:18-20** – The King’s Restless Night and Eagerness to Get to the Lion’s Den
2. Daniel 6:18 - The description of Darius’ night shows how much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he was in regarding this decision. He truly cared about Daniel and was very angry with himself for being tricked and having painted himself in a corner.
3. Daniel 6:19-20 - Darius rushes straight to the lion’s den early in the morning, and he appears less \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ this time – His question was “Has your God ***BEEN ABLE*** to deliver you…?”
   1. This was the wrong question! Of course, He was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - the better question was rather “was He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?” Did He still have a purpose for Daniel’s life on earth? By delivering Daniel, would He be further glorified?
   2. Darius had been right in his declaration that Daniel’s God would deliver him in verse 16, but he was not as confident after having a night to think about it more!
   3. However, notice that he still refers to Daniel’s God as the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” God.
4. **Daniel 6:21-22** – Daniel’s Response to the King from the Den of Lions
   * 1. Daniel 6:21 - Notice Daniel’s very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ response to King Darius. He could have been upset having spent the night with a bunch of lions in a dark hole, but he greets the King with respect and honor.
     2. Daniel 6:22 - God supernaturally protected Daniel from the lions and sent an angel to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the lions’ mouths (could have been the same angel with Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego in Daniel 3 – The Angel of the Lord – The Pre-Incarnate Lord Jesus).
5. God did so for two reasons:
   1. ***(1st)***: Daniel was innocent before God - This did not mean that he was “perfect,” but rather that he had done nothing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or wrong to deserve this punishment.
   2. ***(2nd)***: Daniel was blameless before the king (before men) - This is a great example where civil \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was acceptable because it required obeying God rather than man.
6. **Daniel 6:23-27** – The King’s Response to Daniel’s Deliverance
7. Daniel 6:23 - Does God know how to preserve His saints? You bet He does!
   1. Notice there was absolutely “no injury whatever” found on him. This means that even when he was “cast into the pit” (verse 16), he was **NOT** even \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or scratched! God had clearly protected Him in full!
   2. The ***REASON*** why Daniel was preserved is clearly spelled out in the text - he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in His God!
      1. The emphasis here is that Daniel depended upon OR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ upon His God! He did not “beg” the king to stop, he did not mount an attack against his foes, he realized he had one and ONLY one option – He simply “shut himself up to faith in His God.”
      2. God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ faith (dependence upon OR reliance upon Him) because it brings Him great glory and honor when we rest on Him.
8. Daniel 6:24 - Notice the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of fortunes here! The very men who accused Daniel were now thrown into the same lion’s den with their entire families!
   1. The text tells us that they were eaten \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they hit the bottom of the den – the lions were so hungry, they were catching these people in the air!
   2. Additionally, imagine the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ this would place on the king personally as now he needed to find new governors and satraps to run his kingdom!!
9. Daniel 6:25-27 - This is a pretty ***INCREDIBLE*** declaration by a pagan king - Did he renounce his paganism from this point forward and serve the true God of the Bible? - We do not know, but this very well could have been the reason King Cyrus issued the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and allowed the Jewish captives to go back home and begin to rebuild their city, their temple, and their walls – maybe all of this was prompted by this one event…?
   1. Notice that not only does the king fear and tremble before Daniel’s God, but he wants \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in his kingdom to do the same.
   2. With Nebuchadnezzar earlier making a similar proclamation, and now Darius, it was as if God was giving two pagan witnesses to His people to encourage them while they were in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…God has not changed – He is still the ONLY true God!!
      1. King Darius mentioned specifically Daniel’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream from Daniel 2, and he identifies Daniel’s God as the ***LIVING*** God and His kingdom as “the one which shall not be destroyed.”
      2. This is an incredible insight into what Darius was thinking at this point in his life and may have been a contributing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to King Cyrus allowing and supporting the Jews to return to their homeland (See Ezra 1:1-2 – This was all in the same year).
      3. The stage was set for Jewish refugees to return to the Promised Land. Since Daniel, who represented the best of Israel, was seen as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to his adoptive government, the Jewish people would not be perceived as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or threating to the kingdom.
      4. Most likely the deaths of so many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leaders helped clear the way for Israel’s favorbefore the king and likely sent a sobering message to Israel’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ throughout the entire kingdom.
10. **Lessons from Daniel six**
11. When is it okay to break the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_? When the law of a legitimate government conflicts with the mandates of Scripture, we mustobey God rather than man. God’s laws preside \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ man’s laws. Acts 5:29
12. Man’s worldview constantly supports \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_from God as the path to the betterment of humanity. Nothing could be more foolish, destructive, and further from the truth.
13. Watch out when people play up to your ego. Often that is an attempt to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and control you. Typically, an appeal to your pride, is a set-up for your fall. Proverbs 11:2, 16:18, 18:12, 29:23
14. Like Daniel, do what is right before God in and out of the sight of men. When people are watching keep doing what is right before God not man. Always be more concerned about your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord than your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rating with man. Matthew 6:1-16, 1 Corinthians 10:31, 1 Peter 4:11
15. God blesses believers who trustin Him (Heb. 11:6). Those who trust the Lord often \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ human history in amazing ways and bring God enduring glory.

1. A big thank you to DM2 ([www.dm2usa.org](http://www.dm2usa.org)) for many of these notes. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)