

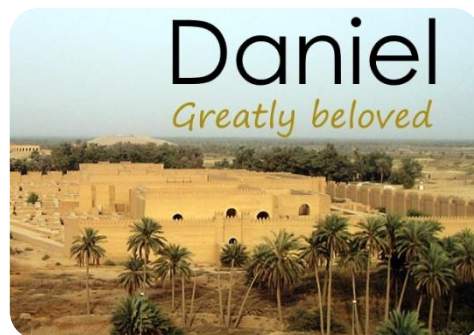
DANIEL 6 vs 1

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Daniel does not give us a continued history of the reigns in which he lived, nor of the state – affairs of the kingdoms of Chaldea and Persia, though he was a great man in those affairs; but he selects such passages of story as serve for the confirming of our faith in God and our obedience to Him. – Matthew Henry.

Remember, this is in the area of modern day Iran, often referred to as Persia; and these people were blessed by God to know this history for the last 2500 years.



¹ It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 princes to be over the whole kingdom; / Medo-Persian leadership including satraps, governors,

² And over these three officials; of whom Daniel was one to whom the princes might give account, so the king should **not suffer loss** / by this time, Daniel was around 81 years old.

³ Then this Daniel was preferred above the officials and princes because an excellent spirit was in him;

/ Daniel distinguished himself by the way he worked with integrity; he could not be corrupted; Darius found he was trustworthy,

and the king planned to set him over the whole realm / think of it; over the entire kingdom, Daniel impressed Darius as Joseph did the pharaoh of Egypt; both men could have caved to bribery, yet remained unaffected by the steady stream of nepotism, graft and corruption that swirled around them.



⁴ Then the officials and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom / they sought to raise a complaint against Daniel much like those scripted hirelings in the press – tax deductions for their board of directors... and no different than those Herodian and Jesuit-trained hacks in govt now days, creating all their fake news to destroy good people;

but they could find no occasion or fault in him because he was faithful.

⁵ Then these men said, We will not find any occasion for complaint against this Daniel, except we find it concerning the law of his God / and so we learn something about these deists... their biggest problem: thinking their absent god – who was either a demonic inspired entity, or the figment of their inventive imagination, and that their absent god was similar to the God of Daniel; but they will learn.

⁶ Then these officials and princes came together to the king, and said to him,

O King Darius, live forever / did Darius chuckle? Can you imagine him struggling to keep a poker face; perhaps rolling his eyes? He could see through their hypocrisy in the 8 seconds it took them to approach him; he could hear their empty palaver in their phony intonations: “O King live forever” Darius knew that’s the sound of these liars – he knew they’d prefer him dead by sundown... if they could pull off the coup; criminals always misplay some card in the deck. Darius did not believe their advertisements; I’m sure he was wary, especially not seeing Daniel in the group.

7 All the officials of the kingdom, the prefects, the princes, the counselors, and the captains have agreed that the king should establish a royal injunction and make it enforceable, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, will be cast into the den of lions.

8 Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be altered / or revoked.

9 Therefore king Darius signed the document and decree / the injunction, the ban.



10 When Daniel knew that the document was signed, he went to his house and in his upper room with his windows opened toward Jerusalem where he kneeled three times a day, and he prayed; and gave thanks before his God as previously.



11 Then these men came and found Daniel praying and petitioning before his God.

12 Then they came near and said before the king concerning the injunction; O king! Did you not sign a decree, that anyone who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except to you, O king, will be cast into the den of lions?

The king answered and said, The thing is true / it stands, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be altered / or revoked.

13 Then they answered and said before the king, Daniel, one of the captivity of Judah, does not regard you, O king, nor the decree you signed, but makes his petition three times a day.

14 Then the king, when he heard these words,

was much displeased with himself, and set his heart to deliver Daniel:

and he labored till the sun went down to rescue him / which I am sure had an unexpected unsettling, and extremely negative effect on all these collaborators.

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15 Then these men came to the king and said to the king, O king, know that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no decree nor statute which the king establishes can be changed / typical... though foolish, these instigators, no different than the fake news thugs now days, think they can educate Darius who was a master multitasker; I'm sure he already started to put together his list of traitors.

16 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!

17 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 be changed concerning Daniel.

18 Then the king went to his palace and passed the night fasting: no entertainment was brought him: and sleep fled from him.

19 Then early in the morning, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions / you get the idea Darius dozed off for a moment, and suddenly is awake, and immediately jumps up heading for Daniel.

20 As he came near to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice to Daniel / as his security detail follows you can hear the clatter through the halls... and finally Darius starts to roar:

and 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?

21 Then Daniel said to the king, O king, live forever! / now, when Daniel says things like that, this warrior-king Darius pays attention, his heart is grabbed.

Daniel hears him coming and shouts back...



22 My God sent his angel and shut the mouths of the lions, and they have not harmed me: for before Him I was found blameless; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.

Check out: **Wild Animals showing love to Humans**

23 Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel is taken from the den. So Daniel was taken from the den, and no harm was found on him, because he trusted his God.

24 And the king commanded, and those men who 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,

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the lions overpowered them,
and broke all their bones in pieces.

²⁵ Then king Darius wrote to all people, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth;

Peace be multiplied to you.

²⁶ I make a decree:



That in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel:

He is the living God, enduring forever, His kingdom will **not** be destroyed, His dominion will be to the end.

²⁷ He delivers and rescues, He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, He who delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

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

Check out one of the great gospel songs of the church:

If God be for us, who can be against us?

The lions were roaring so fierce and hungry,
but Daniel knew the One he served would bring him out.
The king cried, O Daniel has your God delivered you?
He replied, My Lord has shut the lion's mouth.

Chorus:

If God be for us, who can be against us? Who can separate us from His mighty hand?
If God be for us, who can be against us? We're gonna win this battle before God we stand.