

Daniel: Chapter 6
(God- the Lord of the Lions)

Chapter 6:1-28: Daniel in the lions den.

Dan 6:1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

Dan 6:2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Dan 6:3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

- princes-

H324 אַחַשְׁדַּרְפָּן 'achashdarpan *akh-ash-dar-pan'*
(Chaldee); corresponding to **H323**: - **prince**.

H323 אַחַשְׁדַּרְפָּן 'achashdarpan *akh-ash-dar-pan'*
Of Persian derivation; a **satrap** or **governor of a main province (of Persia)**: - lieutenant.

- presidents-

H5632 סָרֵק *sârêk saw-rake'*
(Chaldee); of foreign origin; an **emir**: - president.

Not only is Daniel worthy of being one of the three presidents, he is made chief of the three. It's interesting to note Daniel's "incumbency". Once again, but by a different ruler, Daniel is seen to have an "excellent spirit".

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Dan 6:4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

- *"Jealousy turns a new dress into an old rag." "We must know something against the object of our superiority. We pull her down that we might get up!" We blow out another's candle thinking ours will shine brighter. Misery seeks company!*

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Dan 6:5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the Law of his God.

- The way to a man's heart... The way to bring a man of God down is to test his faith, try to find fault in his beliefs, belittle his loyalty.

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Dan 6:6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

- The gang of enviers was just kissing up. Live forever was playing on his ego.

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Dan 6:7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

- The other two presidents, evil as they were, make it out that all the leaders of the land devised this plan. What better way to bring a law abiding citizen down than to establish a law that goes against his higher understanding. Laws are to be established for the good of all subjects. If a law *"would be devised to exploit one citizen, those who devise it will by and by strike at the rights of all..."* They, like crooked lawyers, couldn't use current laws against Daniel, so...

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Dan 6:8 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 altereth not.

- *(Not only do they play on the king's ego) ...they manipulate the rule that the "law of the Medes and Persians...altereth not." (Esth 3:8-15; 8:7-15)* This law would make the king very busy. *(Ex 18:13-26)*

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Dan 6:9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

- It seems the king trusted the presidents *(did he not see that Daniel, who had such an "excellent spirit", was not present)* enough to sign whatever decree they set before him, obviously without thinking.

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Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

- In Daniel's godly devotion he risks all. *(Acts 4:19)* His window is open *"toward the place where his heart lived."*

1Ki 8:41 Moreover concerning a stranger, that *is* not of Thy people Israel, but cometh out of a far country for Thy name's sake; :42 (For they shall hear of Thy great name, and of Thy strong hand, and of Thy stretched out arm;) when he shall come and **pray toward this house**; 43 Hear Thou in Heaven Thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to Thee for: **that all people of the earth may know Thy name, to fear Thee**, as do Thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by Thy name.

Daniel was not being arrogant. He knew the law, but his devotion to God did not change. He was devoted to Darius as he was to Nebuchadnezzar but his love for God came first...

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Dan 6:11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

- ...and others knew it.

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Dan 6:12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree: Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask *a petition* of any **God** or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing *is* true, according to the law of the **Medes** and **Persians**, which altereth not.

- *"Didn't **you** sign a law, king?" not "Didn't **we** advise (con) you into establishing this worthless piece of legislation?" "You can't go against the law of the Medes and the Persians!" The same thing as passing the buck.*

Gen 3:12 And the man said, The woman **whom Thou gavest** to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

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Dan 6:13 Then answered they and said before the king, That **Daniel**, which *is* of the children of the captivity of **Judah**, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

- That **Daniel**- Just as in Luke 15:29-30 when the eldest son referred to his brother when speaking to his father as "**your son**". They are here disassociating themselves with **Daniel**.

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Dan 6:14 Then the king, when he heard *these* words, was sore displeased with himself, and set *his* heart on **Daniel** to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

- Unlike **Ahasuerus** (*Esther 8:5-11*), **Darius** could not come up with an immutable law that could rescue **Daniel**.

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Dan 6:15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the **Medes** and **Persians** *is*, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

- The king obviously was subordinate to a higher rule/authority because even he (*like Ahasuerus in Esther*) could not change an established decree. ("*In the Babylonian realm...the law was subject to the king*") The king is conned, but the con-artists will pay!

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Dan 6:16 Then the king commanded, and they brought **Daniel**, and cast *him* into the den of lions. *Now* the king spake and said unto **Daniel**, Thy **God Whom** thou servest continually, **He** will deliver thee.

- *"There seems to be something good going on between **Darius** and **Daniel**"..."the lords made it clear (*though*) they had no respect for **Darius**."*

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Dan 6:17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning **Daniel**.

- Even the lords sealed what they thought would be **Daniel's** fate.
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Dan 6:18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

- *"While the righteous lay amid the hungry lions the ungodly were rejoicing." But not Darius. In his palace as king he couldn't evade his conscience.*

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Dan 6:19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

Dan 6:20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, Whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

- In a pathetic, not so royal, voice Darius hopes beyond hope that Daniel will answer. He wasn't as confident as he was in verse 16.

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Dan 6:21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

Dan 6:22 My God hath sent His Angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before Him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

- *live forever- Daniel continues to show respect for Darius (unlike the lords in verse 6 who were just playing him) because he knows Darius was conned. "Is this not proof, O king, that I am on your side? God found me to be innocent in His sight and yours."*

Heb 11:33 Who through faith ... stopped the mouths of lions,

- *His Angel- This would have been the pre-incarnate Christ.*

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Dan 6:23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

- He trusted God and that's the key. He didn't even have a scratch on him. Just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had not even the smell of smoke when they exited the fiery furnace (3:25-27).

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Dan 6:24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

- **Check mate!** Those who would made the king their pawn now had the table turned. Proof that the lions were not sedated...they were very hungry. So much so, their "meal" didn't make it to the bottom step before they trounced on them. In his rage/vengeance the king "destroyed all the families involved in this exploitation." (Josh 7:24-26; Esth 5:14; 6:12-14; 7:5-10; 8:1)

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Dan 6:25 Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

Dan 6:26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for He is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall be even unto the end.

Dan 6:27 He delivereth and rescueth, and He worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, Who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

- God is able to protect His captives, reveal the future, humble a proud king, save His saints from fire, avenge His honor and now stop the mouths of lions. *"Of course people should tremble before the God of Daniel."*

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Dan 6:28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

- Daniel is vindicated and again prospers in the reign of Darius the Mede who may well have started his reign in the third year of Cyrus the Persian. *(10:1; 11:1 and see notes for 5:31-6:1)*

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