

Daniel 6

1 Cyrus was Darius nephew and the energy behind Darius.

2 Daniel's job was to oversee 40 of these officials in a way that there would be good management of the nation's assets.

3 Of the three administrators, Daniel outshined the rest and was going to be promoted to overseeing the administrators.

4 He probably kept them accountable and working hard, which they in turn resented. So they want to find some way to get this guy off their back. But look at his testimony - He was trustworthy. In nothing was he corrupt or negligent. What a testimony! There are so few politicians today of which the same can be said.

5 Faultless and everyone knew it. You'd think they would be convicted. Instead they decided to trap him in something related to the Law of his God. He was so consistent and faithful with that they knew they could trap him with its conflict with their society's system. Is the same true of you?

6,7 They've hatched a plot. It will fit in with the king's ego, trap Daniel, and be inescapable, or so they thought. The Babylonians worshipped fire, and thus the fiery furnace. The Persians did not and so they have a different means of execution, a lion pit.

8 Let's get it in writing - so there is no getting around it. Imagine, Daniel had to oversee these clever, deceitful men, and still was successful. The law of the Medes and Persians was unchangeable as they considered the king infallibly representing an incarnated god. To pray only to him would be in line with their belief system.

9,10 Brother Daniel had a regular routine of coming before the Lord on his knees with prayer and thanksgiving. No wonder he was so mightily used of God. Threats did not change this practice that he must have considered essential to his life. How essential is it to your life? Is once a day enough? Ps 55:17 1Thess 5:17 Once he heard the decree was made and signed, his only recourse was God. He turns his eyes away from the world and looks to the habitation of God. When we are faced with bad news we need to do the same. Turn your eyes upon Jesus.

11 Caught in the act. Daniel knew he needed God's help everyday. You'd think the wisest man in the kingdom might get a little self-confident. Daniel's wisdom made him God-confident.

12 Must have been the customary beginning of accusation. First state the specific law for which you are about to accuse someone and get a confirmation of its exact wording and then bring up the accused. They don't waste any time. Persecution is usually legalized under some other pretense. Hate crimes in the USA may be the world's next tool to accost Christians for living Truth.

13 This is also a trap for the king. Obviously the king highly values Daniel. These rascals sprung the trap on them both. Who knows what was going on in the mind of the king when he made the decree, but now he sees his folly.

14 The king too is bound by law. If the king represented an incarnation of god, the law had to stand as if he was infallible. He must have looked for loopholes but could find none.

15,16 He had to give the order but in doing so he also prays for Daniel's God to rescue him.

17,18 Sounds like fasting. This man realized what a mistake he had made. His heart was very close to Daniel.

19 He went out in faith believing what was not possible could happen.

20 Has He? Can He? Darius is also wondering about who God is. He knows he is not god. Did the real God answer prayer?

21 The sound of his voice! The king's heart must have leapt up in his throat.

22 He disobeyed the phony law but never the heart of service toward his king.
Hebrews 11:33

23 I wonder if they had ever before taken anyone else out? He was unharmed because He trusted in His God. Just as with his friends and the fiery furnace, not a mark. God delivers completely!

24 Was this part of the way the laws were written? Some cultures had opportunity for the miraculous to prove the condemned innocent. Did this one then have the stipulation that the accusers and their families were punished with their victims proposed punishment? Or did the king have the power to put to death whoever he wanted like the Babylonian kings did?

25,26 Instead a new edict goes out that the true God must be worshipped, the God of Daniel. How many were saved? Only God knows. For a time this heathen kingdom believed that there was only one true God over all.

27 He rescues and He saves! The testimony was shared with the nation, and people encouraged to turn to the God of Daniel.

28 God blessed his ministry and gave him a long life to help people find the true God.