

Daniel 6:1-28 **Faithful Daniel in Lions Den – Faith & Response of Darius**

The setting of the Story

1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; 2 and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss.

3 Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.

Jealousy Fosters Grave Error Against Oneself

4 So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.

5 Then these men said, **"We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of Elahéh (his God)."**

6 So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever!

7 All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any elahéh (god) or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.

8 Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."

9 Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

Faithfulness of Daniel – Faith of Darius

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before Elahéh (his God), as was his custom since early days.

11 Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

12 And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, 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 does not alter."

13 So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."

14 And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

15 Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

16 So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Elaahaak (Your God), whom you serve continually, He will deliver you."

17 Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

Daniel Saved from the Lions

18 Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him.

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions.

20 And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living Elaahaa (God), has Elaahaak (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!

22 Elaahiy (My God) sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."

23 Now the king was exceedingly 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 injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in Elaheh (his God).

Darius Honors God

24 And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions — them, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.

25 Then King Darius wrote:

To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth:
Peace be multiplied to you.

26 I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before Elaheh (the God) of Daniel.

For He is the living Elaahaa (God), And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end.

27 He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

The setting of the Story

- ☆ **It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss.**

Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. [Daniel 6:1-3]

✧ Faithful Righteousness of Daniel earned him political recognition.

Jealousy Fosters Grave Error Against Oneself [Daniel 6:4-9]

- ✧ Political jealousy led the officials to plot a deceptive charge against their prime rival.
- ✧ Lacking discernment Darius was tricked into a foolish action.

Faithfulness of Daniel – Faith of Darius [Daniel 6:10-17]

- ✧ Daniel knew the plot and that the king had signed it.
- ✧ Daniel deliberately continued his prayers to his God in spite of their edict.
- ✧ When Darius realized he had been tricked into unrighteousness he sought a way to save Daniel but it was too late to change the consequences of his action.
- ✧ As the decree was carried out, Darius spoke to Daniel of his faith in the ability of Daniel's God to over turn the decrees of the king, because God had demonstrated His power to over turn decrees of kings through both Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. [Daniel 3:28-29, 4:1-37, 5:1-31]
- ✧ Darius said: "**Elaahaak (Your God), whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.**" This is clearly a statement of faith.

Daniel Saved from the Lions [Daniel 6:18-23]

- ✧ The anxiety of Darius is seen in His actions of sleeplessness and rush to the den of lions early in the morning, eager to see if God had honored his faith.
- ✧ Daniel's reply comforted Darius who commanded them to remove Daniel from the lion's Den.

Darius Honors God [Daniel 6:24-28]

- ✧ Darius demonstrated his desire for righteous justice by commanding that the deceivers and their families be cast to the lions returning their evil upon their own heads.
 - ✧ The fact that the lions destroyed them before they reached the bottom of the den demonstrated the greatness of the miracle of God's deliverance of Daniel.
- ☆ Then **King Darius wrote:**
To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth:
Peace be multiplied to you.

I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before Elaheh (the God) of Daniel.

**For He is the living Elaahaa (God), And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end.
He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.**

So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.
[Daniel 6:25-28]

- ✧ The plot of the wicked failed, the original plan of Darius was fulfilled because of faith.