

**Lesson #45 • Hebrews 11:33b-34**

**Victory Over Circumstances**

**“Shutting the Mouths of Lions & Quenching the fury of the flames”**

**Daniel • Part 5 of 6**

**• H A N D O U T •**

▶ As we turn to Chapter 6, Daniel has distinguished himself during the rule of all the Babylonian kings, as well as Darius, the Mede. Then, jealousy and vanity, political exploitation, and violence, rears its ugly head into Daniel's story. But, God's merciful intervention will conclude this part of his story.

*Daniel 6:1-3 • Darius the Mede decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces, and he appointed a high officer to rule over each province. The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the high officers and protect the king's interests.*

*Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire.*

Q: History tells us that Babylon was conquered by Persia, so who was this Darius the Mede?

Q: Since identifying Darius seems to be problematic from a secular historical point of view, what kind of a solution can we find that will satisfy the scriptural record and fit all of the known facts?

**Though Daniel has endeared himself to three Monarchs and is admired by the people, jealousy emerges and a plot is conceived against Daniel**

*Daniel 6:4-5 • Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion."*

Q: When the Court Administrators began to search for some fault of which they could accuse Daniel what did they find?

Q: Why is this so extraordinary?

Q: What did they find?

Q: They expressed determination to get rid of the power and influence that Daniel exercised in Babylon's Persian Empire. What conclusion did they come to?

*Daniel 6:6-9 • So the administrators and high officers went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! We are all in agreement – we administrators, officials, high officers, advisers, and governors – that the king should make a law that will be strictly enforced.*

*Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human – except to you, Your Majesty – will be thrown into the den of lions. And now, Your Majesty, issue and sign this law so it cannot be changed, an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked."*

*So King Darius signed the law.*

Q: Why did these administrators and high officers make such a point that they were all in agreement regarding the law they wanted him to sign?

Q: Were they telling the truth? Were all the administrators and governors of the kingdom, in agreement?

Q: What was the worst aspect of this law?

### **Daniel learns about the law which Darius has been signed into law ...**

*Daniel 6:10 • But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.*

Q: What are the four amazing concepts we see in Daniel's prayer life?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## The trap is sprung and the officials found Daniel praying – just as they knew they would ...

*Daniel 6:11-14 · Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help.*

*So they went straight to the king and reminded him about his law. "Did you not sign a law that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human – except to you, Your Majesty – will be thrown into the den of lions?"*

*"Yes," the king replied, "that decision stands; it is an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked."*

*Then they told the king, "That man, Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day."*

*Hearing this, the king was deeply troubled, and he tried to think of a way to save Daniel. He spent the rest of the day looking for a way to get Daniel out of this predicament.*

Q: What was wrong with the official's description of Daniel as “that man – one of the captives from Judah?”

Q: Was Darius aware that this was a trap set against Daniel?

*Daniel 6:15-18 · In the evening the men went together to the king and said, "Your Majesty, you know that according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, no law that the king signs can be changed." So, at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, "May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you." A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel. Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night fasting. He refused his usual entertainment and couldn't sleep at all that night.*

Q: What Darius said to Daniel suggests Darius had acquired faith. How would this happen to a pagan king?

Q: Why was a stone placed over the mouth of the lion's den and sealed with the royal seals?

Q: How does Darius react after he was forced to seal Daniel into the Lion's den?

Daniel 6:19-23 • Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions' den. When he got there, he called out in anguish, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?"

Daniel answered, "Long live the king! My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in His sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty."

The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God.

Q: What does it tell us that Darius called out to Daniel early the next morning?

Q: Why would Daniel tell Darius that he had been found innocent in the sight of the Most High God?

Q: Why is it important to know that the lions' mouths were shut?

Q: Who shut the Lion's mouth?

Q: Why does Daniel tell Darius **"I have not wronged you, Your Majesty."**

#### Darius writes a New Edict ...

Daniel 6:24-28 • Then the king gave orders to arrest the men who had maliciously accused Daniel. He had them thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. The lions leaped on them and tore them apart before they even hit the floor of the den.

Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: "Peace and prosperity to you!"

"I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and He will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and His rule will never end. He rescues and saves His people; He performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

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

Q: We can understand why Darius sentenced Daniel's false accusers of the same fate they had arranged for Daniel. But, why did their wives and children also have to suffer so horribly?

Q: We can understand how Darius would come to know that the Most High God performed miracles, but how would he know about Him being the eternal God without end?

Q: How do we know Darius' new found faith is genuine?

Q: Consider what parallels there are between Daniel's Lion's Den experience, and the life of Jesus?

Q: Chapter 6 has been all about Darius. Why does the chapter end by mentioning the reign of Cyrus the Persian?



**Next Time ♦ Lesson #46**  
**“Daniel – Part 6 of 6”**

