**The Destiny of Daniel—Chapter 6, “Daniel Defies the Lions”**



***Daniel 6--538 B.C.—is a lesson on “Charismatic Grace” and “Faithful Promises.” This chapter is about how Daniel, by faith, "stopped the mouths of lions,’’ and so "obtained a good report.’’ We are not actually sure who Darius, the Mede, is; history is very vague on this point. “The Chronicles of Nabonidus” is often referred to for the historical background of the Medes and Persians. On Oct. 11, 539 B.C., Captain Ugbaru, a.k.a. Gubaru, (of the Medes/Persians) conquered Babylon. Cyrus had gone north to shut off the Euphrates River. October 29, Cyrus arrived in Babylon and appointed Gubaru/ Gobrius/ Ugbaru to be governor of Babylon. Cyrus appointed him to rule over Babylon, but he died eight days after Cyrus arrived. Darius is probably another name for Ugbaru/ Gubaru. Nabonidus and Balshazzar were co-kings of Babylon, and both died, giving over Babylon to the Medes/Persians. It was in the third year of Cyrus that Daniel's visions (Daniel 10:1-12:13) were given. Babylon/Chaldea becomes a “state” in the province of the Medes/Persians. Cyrus is the head king over the whole region; and many believe that Darius and Cyrus are the same person. Chapter 6 ends the historical section of Daniel. From this point on, 7-12, the prophetical portion of Daniel will unfold.***

1. **Who is Darius the Mede? Cyrus? Darius**--GROTEFEND has read it in the cuneiform inscriptions at Persepolis, as Darheush, that is, "Lord-King," a name applied to many of the Medo-Persian kings in common. Three of that name occur: Darius Hystaspes, 521 B.C., in whose reign the decree was carried into effect for rebuilding the temple ( [Ezra 4:5](http://www.biblestudytools.com/ezra/4-5.html) , [Haggai 1:1](http://www.biblestudytools.com/haggai/1-1.html) ); Darius Codomanus, 336 B.C., whom Alexander overcame, called "the Persian" ( [Nehemiah 12:22](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nehemiah/12-22.html) ), an expression used after the rule of Macedon was set up; and Darius Cyaxares II, between Astyages and Cyrus [AESCHYLUS, The Persians, 762, 763]. No doubt Cyrus acted under Darius, as in the capture of Babylon; so that Daniel rightly attributes the appointment to Darius. **History records that Cyrus was the first before whom prostration was practiced. It is an undesigned mark of genuineness that Daniel should mention no prostration before Nebuchadnezzar or Darius.**
2. **What was Daniel’s position in this new kingdom?**
	1. **How many satraps were in leadership? One hundred and twenty**--satraps; set over the conquered provinces (including Babylon) by Cyrus. **How many governors?**
3. **What was Daniel’s age at this time? How do you know?**
	1. **Is Daniel’s age relevant to this story?**
4. **In verse 3, we notice the phrase, “an excellent spirit was in him.” Where else have we seen this used? Review Daniel 5:12.** -probably because of his having so wonderfully foretold the fall of Babylon. Hence the very expression used by the queen mother on that occasion ([Daniel 5:12](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/5-12.html) ) is here used, "because an excellent spirit was in him."
	1. **See Daniel 1:8.** Daniel purposed in his heart**.**
5. **In verse 4, we view a conspiracy forming against Daniel. Why? Refer to Ecclesiastes 4:4.**
	1. **How does verse 4 relate to a “study in envy?”**
		1. **Is this similar to the Pharisees who sought to crucify Jesus?**
		2. **What fault did the satraps, governors, or leaders find in Daniel?**
			1. **How could Daniel’s weakness be exposed by the jealous satraps?**
			2. **What did they say would be his downfall?**
		3. **Compare the accusers’ plan to that of the Babylonian officials who tried to topple Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego in Chapter 3, Daniel.**
		4. **Compare to the plot of the “religious leaders” at Jesus’ trial, Mark 15, Matthew 26-27.**
6. **In verse 7, why is the punishment a “den of lions” rather than “the fiery furnace” of the Babylonians?** An underground cave or pit, covered with a stone. It is an undesigned proof of genuineness, that the "fiery furnace" is not made the means of punishment here, as in [Daniel 3:20](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/3-20.html) ; for the Persians were fire-worshippers, which the Babylonians were not.
	1. **“Lion” appears in the scripture several times. See I Peter 5:8, Rev. 5:5, II Timothy 4:17, Ez.10:14, Hosea 11:10.**
		1. **Who could the lion represent?**
		2. **The den? Daniel? The King?**
7. **How do the laws of the Medo/Persians differ from that of the Babylonians? See Esther 1:19, 8:8.** This immutability of the king's commands was peculiar to the Medes and Persians: it was due to their regarding him infallible as the representative of Ormuzd; it was not so among the Babylonians.
8. **What happened in verse 10 when Daniel heard the decree?**
	1. **Is his disobedience to the mandate intentional?**
	2. **Why did Daniel open his window and bow down to pray?**
	**Windows. . . open**--not in vainglory, but that there might be no obstruction to his view of the direction in which Jerusalem, the earthly seat of Jehovah under the Old Testament, lay; and that the sight of heaven might draw his mind off from earthly thoughts. To Christ in the heavenly temple let us turn our eyes in prayer, from this land of our captivity
		1. **See I Kings 8:44, 48, 2 Chronicles 6:29, 34, 38, and Psalms 5:7.**
	3. **Why did Daniel pray toward Jerusalem? Review I Kings 8:48-49.** Jerusalem was the place which God had chosen to put his name there; and, when the temple was dedicated, Solomon’s prayer to God was that if his people should in the land of their enemies pray unto him with their eye towards the land which he gave them, and the city he had chosen, and the house which was built to his name, then he would hear and maintain their cause ([1 Kings 8:48](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-kings/8-48.html)-49), to which prayer Daniel had reference in this circumstance of his devotions
	4. **Why did he pray three times a day? See also Psalm 55:17.** He did these three times a day, three times every day according to the example of David.
	5. **After Darius’ decree was signed, make a list of the actions of Daniel. How did they change from his earlier actions?**
		1. **Discuss Daniel kneeling in Acts 9:40 Psalm 95:6, 109:4, Ezra 9:5, Romans 14:11, I Kings 8:54, I Chron. 23:30,** **and Ezekiel 14:14.**
		2. **Opening the window toward Jerusalem.**
		3. **When the three Hebrews remained standing in Chapter 3, against the King’s edict, it brought them punishment. Compare this with Daniel’s action in this chapter.** Now,Daniel kneels down while others stood.
		4. **Where else do we witness a “man of prayer” in the Bible? See Acts 10:30.** Cornelius was a man that prayed in his house, [Acts. 10:30](http://www.biblestudytools.com/acts/10-30.html)
		5. **How do we know that Jerusalem was still important to Daniel? Refer to** [**Psalm 137:5**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/137-5.html)**-6.**
			1. **Solomon taught the Jews to pray to the Lord facing Jerusalem. Read 2 Chron. 6:21, 34-39, Ps. 5:7.**
	6. **See the New Testament reference in Matthew 10:32.**  In trying times great stress is laid upon our confessing Christ before men.
9. **In verse 12, why do the magistrates and “government men” remind the King of his edict? See Matthew 14:9, 6:26.** They preface their attack by alleging the king's edict, so as to get him again to confirm it unalterably, before they mention Daniel's name. Not to break a wicked promise, is not firmness, but guilty obstinacy ([Matthew 14:9](http://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/14-9.html) , [6:26](http://www.biblestudytools.com/mark/6-26.html) ).
	1. **Why can the law written by the King not be changed?** **Look at Esther 1:19, 8:8.** The same.
10. **The disdain shown for Daniel in verse 13 is evident.** **Why?**
	1. **Did Daniel not regard the King? Examine Acts 4:19 and 5:29**. “Regardeth not thee”--because he regarded God.
	2. **Why did accusers fail to remind the King that Daniel was in a leadership position? “That Daniel”-captivity of Judah**--recently a captive among thy servants, the Babylonians--one whom humble obedience most becomes. Thus they aggravate his guilt, omitting mention of his being prime minister, which might only remind Darius of Daniel's state services.
11. **In verses 14-15, the king was displeased with whom? What did he do to try to reverse the law?** Displeased with himself--for having suffered himself to be entrapped into such a hasty decree ([Proverbs 29:20](http://www.biblestudytools.com/proverbs/29-20.html) ). On the one hand he was pressed by the immutability of the law; fear that the princes might conspire against him, and desire to consult for his own reputation, not to seem fickle; on the other, by regard for Daniel, and a desire to save him from the effects of his own rash decree.
12. **Describe the King’s attitude compared to the conspirators**? The king took this time to deliberate, thinking that after sunset Daniel would be spared till morning, and that meanwhile some way of escape would turn up. But ([Daniel 6:15](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/6-15.html)) the conspirators "assembled tumultuously" (literally) to prevent this delay in the execution, lest the king should meantime change his decree.
	1. **See also Proverbs 29:20.**
	2. **In Verse 14, the King “set His Heart” to free Daniel. Was that possible?**
		1. **Compare to Pontius Pilate’s reaction in the New Testament; see Matthew 27:24.**
13. **In verse 16, what did the King prophesy about Daniel’s outcome? Thy God. . . will deliver thee**--The heathen believed in the interposition of the gods at times in favor of their worshippers. Darius recognized Daniel's God as a god, but not the only true God. He had heard of the deliverance of the three youths in [Daniel 3:26](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/3-26.html) [Daniel 3:27](http://www.biblestudytools.com/daniel/3-27.html) and hence augurs Daniel's deliverance. I am not my own master, and cannot deliver thee, however much I wish it. "Thy God will." Kings are the slaves of their flatterers. Men admire piety to God in others, however disregarding Him themselves.
	1. **Refer back to Daniel 3:26-27.**
	2. **Describe how the King spent the night.** Jerusalem was the place which God had chosen to put his name there; and, when the temple was dedicated, Solomon’s prayer to God was that if his people should in the land of their enemies pray unto him with their eye towards the land which he gave them, and the city he had chosen, and the house which was built to his name, then he would hear and maintain their cause to which prayer Daniel had reference in this circumstance of his devotions
	3. **Speculate on Daniel’s experience in the den?**
14. **Compare the “Stone” of verse 17 to the stone at Jesus’ tomb in John 20:1 and Matthew 27:66. Stone. . . sealed**--typical of Christ's entombment under a seal. Divinely ordered, that the deliverance might be the more striking.
15. **The following morning, what did the King find at the site of the Lion’s Den?**
	1. **Describe the King’s voice in Verse 20?**
	2. **How did Daniel answer the King’s inquiry about his well-being?**
		1. **Who is the angel who shut the mouth of the lions? Note Psalms 91:11 and 34:7.**
	3. **Compare this passage with I Peter 5:8.**
	4. **When the King found Daniel had escaped the lions, he was “exceedingly glad,” verse 23. Where else in the Bible do we witness that same terminology?**
		1. **Notice Matthew 5:12, Matthew 20:23, Romans 8:31-34, I Thess. 3:10, Matthew 2: 9-10, and Ephesians 3:20.**
	5. **Compare the decree of the King to the decree put forth by Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4. How are these two pagan declarations similar?** Both were letters written to the entire world.
16. **Who rescued Daniel from the lions?**
	1. **Was it a Theophany or angelic intervention?**
	2. **Where are angelic-interventions evident elsewhere in the bible? Refer back to Psalm 102:20-21, Psalm 91: 10-12, Matthew 4:10-11, Luke 22: 42-44, Acts 5: 19-20.**
		1. **What happened to Daniel’s “false accusers?” Look at Deuteronomy 19:18-19.**
		2. **Refer also to** [**Ps. 7:15**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/7-15.html)**,** [**Ps. 7:16**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/7-16.html)[**Ps. 9:15**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/9-15.html)**,** [**Ps. 9:16**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/9-16.html)**.**
		3. **What happened to the families of the accusers? Reference Deuteronomy 24:16 and 2 Kings 14:6.** Their children--Among the Persians, all the kindred were involved in the guilt of one culprit. The Mosaic Law expressly forbade this.
			1. **Discuss the punishment of Daniel’s accusers; compare it to the scene of the fiery furnace. (“Lex talionis”—law of retaliation)**
		4. **Contemplate Solomon’s observation in** [**Proverbs 11:8**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/proverbs/11-8.html)**.** The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead. In this execution we may observe.
17. **What was Daniel’s reward for his stalwart obedience? See Ezra 1:1-2.** Daniel "prospered" because of his prophecies ([Ezra 1:1](http://www.biblestudytools.com/ezra/1-1.html) [Ezra 1:2](http://www.biblestudytools.com/ezra/1-2.html)).
18. **Discuss this story as seen in Hebrews 11:33 and Ezekiel 14:14, 20.**
19. **Reference Cyrus’ mention in Isaiah 44:24-28. How does this apply to this chapter in Daniel?** This was written 150 years before Cyrus’ appearance.
20. **What is the “take away” from Daniel 6?**
	1. **List truths that apply to you today.**
	2. **How does this “foreshadow” what is happening in modern America?**

**The Promises…**

**The Hall of Faith…..Hebrews 11:32-33, “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also *of* David and Samuel and the prophets: 33who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions…”**

**Proverbs 1:28-32, “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. 29Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, 30they would have none of my counsel *and* despised my every rebuke. 31Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies. 32for the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; 33 but whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.”**

**Of note: \*\*The Magi (Daniel was chief of these) were hired for their “oneiromancy”--** the interpretation of dreams in order to foretell the future.

**\*\*Here’s a thought-provoking question—this sixth chapter of Daniel ends the “court tales.” The next six chapters will be prophetic. Why are the first chapters more easily accepted by skeptics than the last six? Pause and ponder……study on!**