

Daniel In The Lions' Den: Not Just a Children's Bible Story



Daniel 6:1-28



Daniel 6:1-9

“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. 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 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 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.”

The Trap Is Set

- Daniel 6:1-9
 - Daniel is successful
 - Daniel is envied
 - Daniel is targeted

The Trap Is Sprung

- Daniel 6:10 - “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 his God, as was his custom since early days.”
- Daniel continues to pray fully aware the decree had been signed

The Trap Is Sprung

- Praying three times a day
 - Psalm 55:17 - “Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.”
- Praying toward Jerusalem
 - 1Kings 8:28-30 - “Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today: 29 that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place. 30 "And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive.”

The Trap Is Sprung

- Praying on his knees
 - 1Kings 8:54 - “And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to the LORD, that he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.”
- Praying with thankfulness to God even in times of trouble
 - Phil. 4:6 - “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God”

Daniel 6:11-17

“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, ‘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.”

The Trap Is Sprung

- Daniel 6:11-17
 - Daniel is caught
 - Daniel is thrown into the lions' den

Daniel 6:18-23

“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 God, has 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 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 Then 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 his God.”

Daniel 6:24-28

“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 the God of Daniel. For He is the living 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.”

The Trap Is Ruined

- Daniel 6:18-28
 - Darius is worried
 - Daniel is delivered
 - The conspirators are executed

The Trap Is Ruined

- Psalm 7:14 - "Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood. 15 He made a pit and dug it out, And has fallen into the ditch which he made. 16 His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown."
- Prov. 1:18 - "But they lie in wait for their own blood, They lurk secretly for their own lives. 19 So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners."

The Trap Is Ruined

- Daniel 6:18-28
 - Darius is worried
 - Daniel is delivered
 - The conspirators are executed
 - God is exalted
 - Daniel prospers

Daniel Was An Elderly Man...

- With an excellent spirit - Dan. 6:3
- Without fault in business dealings - Dan. 6:4
- Faithful to those over him - Dan. 6:4
- Committed to prayer all of his life - Dan. 6:10
- Willing to obey God rather than man - Dan. 6:10
- Who believed in his God - Dan. 6:23

Learn from Daniel

- You are never too old to seek first the will of God
 - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
- You are never too old to obey God rather than men
 - Acts 5:29 - “But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: We ought to obey God rather than men.”