

***GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION*****The Lion's Den      Daniel 6**

*“For He is the living God...He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.” Daniel 6:26–27*

**Day 1: Read Daniel 6:1–28.**

1. Daniel's shifting fortunes (with kings, not with God) lands him in a position of great authority in the new Medo-Persian kingdom. How has this come about? (Review chapter 5.)
2. Recall a similar rise from rags to responsibility in Genesis when Joseph was lifted up from prison to proprietor of Potiphar's household (Gen.39:3–6), and later to second in command of Pharaoh's Egypt (Gen. 41:38–45). What do these rulers see in Joseph and Daniel that inclines them to promote these servants? (Gen. 39:3–6; Dan. 6:3)
3. How is Darius wiser than his ill-fated predecessor Belshazzar in his treatment of Daniel? (See Dan. 5:10–12.)

**Day 2: Read Daniel 6:1–5.**

4. How is Daniel an illustration of the truth of Proverbs 22:11 and 14:35? (cf. Dan. 2:14)
5. Politicians use polls and focus groups to learn what people want to hear so that they may rise to power, but that power is always fleeting. How is Daniel a counter-example to those strategies? What is the only safe course in life? (See John 5:44; Ps. 2:11–12.)
6. What kind of “spirit,” as opposed to Daniel's “excellent spirit” (vs. 3), is found in the other administrators and satraps? Why do you think they hate Daniel?
7. Where have we seen this same kind of drama playing itself out? (Compare with Matt. 22:15; Mk.12:13.)
8. Why are the schemers not able to find an indictable offense in Daniel at first (vs. 4)? How is such a life as Daniel's glorifying to God, and how can we be like that? (1 Peter 2:12, 3:16)

**Day 3: Read Daniel 6:5–15.**

9. Describe the scheme hatched by Daniel's enemies (vss. 5ff). In their unbridled envy and hatred, how does even the king become collateral damage?

10. How does Daniel respond when he learns of the plot? Does he alter his usual practice in order to save himself from danger? What do you think is his reasoning?
11. Describe Daniel's prayer life. Describe yours. If there were a decree passed in the United States forbidding prayer "during the next thirty days" (vs. 7), would it make any practical difference in your life?
12. Describe how Daniel's enemies covered their evil motives with a cloak of legalistic righteousness. (See vss. 12–13, 15.)

**Day 4: Read Daniel 6:14–23.**

13. The king is fond of Daniel but is trapped. What does he do? (vs. 14) When he finds himself at the end of his own resources, into whose hands does he commit the problem? (vs. 16)
14. What is the question that King Darius calls out to Daniel at the break of day? (vs. 20) How is it answered? (vs. 22) How would you answer that question if someone posed it about your own life's problems?
15. What explanation does verse 23 give for Daniel's rescue?

**Day 5: Read Daniel 6:24–28.**

16. How are the fortunes of Daniel and his enemies ironically reversed by the end of the chapter? (vss. 24, 28)
17. Though for now we do not always see the exaltation of the righteous and humiliation of the wicked, when will we finally see it? (2 Thes.1:6–10) Considering all these things, how should we live?
18. As you consider the events of this chapter, who would you say is the only man in the cast of characters who is free? Where is freedom to be found?
19. What great praise does God put into the mouth of Darius? (vss. 26–27) How will you put your trust in "the living God" this week?