

The Book of Daniel: Chapter 6

May 14 & May 17, 2023

Chapter Overview: Daniel's character, conviction and courage are displayed once more in this well-known account of "Daniel in the lions' den". Despite his age (nearing ninety), Daniel serves the king with an excellent spirit and serves God with unwavering faith. A plot by his enemies is set to destroy him (1 – 9) and he is cast into a den of lions (10 – 17). God sends an angel to deliver him (18 – 23), prompting King Darius the Mede to praise the living God of Daniel (24 – 28).

(1 – 2) Describe the administrative structure that King Darius established within his kingdom. What position did Darius give Daniel within this structure?

(3) Based on Daniel's performance of his duties, what higher position did the king consider for him? What was identified as the source of Daniel's performance?

(4 – 5) How did the other governmental officials respond to Daniel's potential promotion? Why did Daniel's enemies have difficulty finding any charge against him, and how did they intend to proceed?

(6 – 9) What decree did the officials convince the king to establish? How was this decree designed to implicate Daniel? (*Matthew 5: 11 – 12*)

(10) How did Daniel respond to the decree? What actions did he take? (*2 Chronicles 7: 14; Acts 5: 27 – 29; Acts 5: 40 – 42*)

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(11 – 13) How did the governmental officials respond in regard to Daniel's actions, and what did they say to the king?

(14 – 15) How did the king react when he heard the charges that were presented against Daniel? Based on the comments from the officials, what predicament did the king face?

(16 – 18) What did the king's statement to Daniel indicate about his relationship with Daniel and his beliefs concerning God? Why did Darius seal the lions' den with his signet ring (and the signets of his officials), and what effect did this situation have on the king?

(19 – 20) When the king arrived at the lions' den the next morning, what question did he ask Daniel? How did the king describe Daniel's relationship with God?

(21 – 23) How did Daniel describe what had happened in the lions' den? How did the king react, and what order did he give? (*Matthew 10: 28*)

(24) What sentence did the king pronounce against his government officials who had convinced him to establish the decree that led to Daniel being put in the lions' den?

(25 – 28) What subsequent decree did Darius issue, and how did he describe God to the people?