



Daniel

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Daniel and the Lion's Den Daniel 6:1-28

- This chapter introduces a new era. The Kingdom of Babylonia has ended and now the Persian Empire rules. This is the second part of the statue seen by Nebuchadnezzar in his first dream.
- Darius the Great ruled over the Persian Empire, sometimes referenced as the Medo-Persian Empire.
- "At its height under Darius the Great, the Persian Empire stretched from Europe's Balkan Peninsula—in parts of what is present day Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine—to the Indus River Valley in northwest India and south to Egypt."*

*<https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-middle-east/persian-empire>

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- Darius organized his kingdom into 120 jurisdiction's called satraps. These were divided between the oversight of 3 rulers. Daniel was one of these.
 - This is an amazing situation since Daniel had held such a high position in the conquered kingdom of Babylonia.
 - It is a tribute to God's favor with the resulting integrity and giftedness of Daniel.

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- Darius organized his kingdom into 120 jurisdiction's called satraps. These were divided between the oversight of 3 rulers. Daniel was one of these.
 - Daniel quickly distinguished himself to the point that Darius was going to set him over the whole kingdom.

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- Darius' desire to set Daniel over the whole kingdom set in motion a campaign to discredit Daniel.
 - Attempts to find a cause to accuse Daniel of any wrongdoing proved futile.
 - A plot was devised to play Daniel's devotion to God against him.

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- Darius was approached with a proposal that appeared to honor him.
- The proposal was presented as if approved by "all the high officials" of the kingdom and everyone else.
- Anyone who made a petition to anyone, god or man, except for the king, for a period of 30 would be cast into the lion's den.

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- A provision of the law of the Medes and Persians was that a law could not be changed even by the king.
- These people knew that Daniel would open his window toward Jerusalem and pray three times a day.
- They also knew that Daniel's devotion to his God was unshakeable.

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- Daniel, knowing the decree had been signed, opened his window and faithfully kept his times of prayer.
- These officials made sure they witnessed Daniel praying and went to make accusation against him to Darius.
- They reminded the king of his decree, he confirmed it, and made the point it was fixed and unchangeable.

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- They then brought the formal charge against Daniel.
- Darius was distraught that this law was used to condemn Daniel but his attempts to find a way around the law were not successful.
- Darius reluctantly ordered Daniel to the lion's den with the expressed desire that Daniel's God would deliver him.

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- The king spent a long, sleepless, and miserable night and at daybreak went to the lion's den with the hope that God had delivered Daniel.
- To his delight Daniel answered his anguished call to him that indeed God had delivered him.
- Daniel was taken from the lion's den and the king ordered the accusers and their families to be thrown into the den of lions.

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- Darius sent a decree extolling the God of Daniel as worthy of worship.
- God continued to bless Daniel into the time of the reign of Cyrus.

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Lessons

- Consistent integrity and faithfulness will take you a long way.
- There will always be people who resent people who are blessed by consistent integrity and faithfulness.
- Never forget how your pride can be used against you.
- Never accept at face value the assertion that "everybody thinks this way."

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Lessons

- Realize the far-reaching consequences of sinful actions.
- Have confidence in the far-reaching influence of a life yielded to God.

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