



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## A Leader Thrown to the Lions (Daniel, Chapter 6)

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*Compromise may be the greatest threat to the character of a leader. Disloyalty and envy of senior officials and subordinates may be the next greatest threat. The Apostle Paul, in his text on spiritual warfare, gave an antidote to prevent such a threat to your character: **Do not give the devil a foothold** (Ephesians 4:27). Don't give your adversary ammunition to use against you. However, surviving such an attack greatly increases your stature. **Can you share such an attack on a leader?***

### INTRODUCTION

Babylon conquered Israel in 605 B.C. and resettled many of the people. Among these was a teen named Daniel. He was trained to serve as an administrator and excelled in service through transitions in leadership. Darius the Mead conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. **Have you seen a leader survive transitions in power?**

### PROMOTED AGAIN

*Daniel 6:1-3 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; 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. Then 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. (NKJV)*

The king set commissioners over sections of the empire and governors over three regions. They were to prevent rebellion, collect taxes, and distribute funds. At eighty years old, Daniel was to be promoted to second in command. **How would a person distinguish themselves and be seen to have an excellent spirit?**

### ENVIIOUS ADMINISTRATORS

*Daniel 6:4 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. (NKJV)*

They could not find anything to charge against Daniel, so they looked for a weakness. It was then that they plotted to use his faith in God as an accusation. **How do you prepare for any defense in your work or in your faith practices?**

### THE PLOT

*Daniel 6:7 "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." (NKJV)*

The crowd thronged into the throne room and pressured the king to decree their politically correct behavior. Daniel knew of the signed decree, yet he continued his practice of praying early in the morning, at noon, and in the evening. **How do you balance faith in God and duty to government?** (Matt 22:21)

### THROWN TO THE LIONS

*Daniel 6:16 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." (NKJV)*

The king labored all day trying to find a way out of the verdict. He could not eat or sleep all night. Darius saw the truth of himself being referred to as a god and the testimony of Daniel and his God. At dawn, the king hurried out, calling to Daniel. **Have you seen a person be deceitfully accused, then being a blessing of God?**

### RESCUED, RESTORED, REVERED

*Daniel 6:22 "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths...because I was found innocent before Him...I have done no wrong before you."*

Darius decreed that Daniel's God is the living God. **Have you seen testimony change a leader, a nation?**

### A PRAYER

LORD, please empower me to be a Daniel before YOU and in the presence of those around me. Supply me with grace to give and courage to display. I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen!