



CAPITOL COMMISSION®

God and His Leader Exalted

APRIL 24-26, 2024

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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—they, 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. (NKJV)*

IF A FALSE WITNESS RISES AGAINST ANY MAN TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIM OF WRONG-DOING ... IF THE WITNESS IS A FALSE WITNESS, WHO HAS TESTIFIED FALSELY AGAINST HIS BROTHER, THEN YOU SHALL DO TO HIM AS HE THOUGHT TO HAVE DONE TO HIS BROTHER; SO YOU SHALL PUT AWAY EVIL FROM AMONG YOU. AND THOSE WHO REMAIN SHALL HEAR AND FEAR, AND HEREAFTER THEY SHALL NOT AGAIN COMMIT SUCH EVIL AMONG YOU. YOUR EYE SHALL NOT PITY: LIFE SHALL BE FOR LIFE, EYE FOR EYE, TOOTH FOR TOOTH, HAND FOR HAND, FOOT FOR FOOT. DEUTERONOMY 19:16, 18-21

Did these men and their families get exactly what they had conspired against Daniel? Is the miracle of Daniel’s escape intensified by the ferocity of the lions? Is King Darius demonstrating repentance for what he did to Daniel? How does this decree of Darius match that of Nebuchadnezzar earlier? Does King Darius demonstrate faith in Daniel’s God? Was Daniel given the position originally planned for him? Is his political position maintained even with a third emperor?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

➤ MAY 1-3: DANIEL 7:1-8 *THE WORLD EMPIRES PREDICTED*

➤ MAY 8-10: DANIEL 7:9-12 *THE ANCIENT OF DAYS REVEALED*

When the other governors and leaders found out that King Darius was planning to promote Daniel, they became jealous and started to plot against him. When they could find nothing in his past, they decided to conspire against him “concerning the law of his God” (6:5). Having noticed that Daniel prayed faithfully, together they went before the king and the first word out of their mouth was a lie. “All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statue 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” (6:7). When the decree was signed, they catch Daniel in prayer. Then they immediately report him and falsely accuse him. “That Daniel, who is one of the captives of Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king” (6:13), but the king now sees the trap and feverishly worked to somehow save Daniel. Meanwhile, the conspirators happily remind him, “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” (6:15). Finally the king yields to these envious murderers and Daniel is cast to the lions. When God delivers him, Daniel is careful to correct their false accusation (6:22). This was an in-your-face scandal that would have spread at the speed of gossip throughout the entire empire.

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:30 AM –BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – 106 CARTER ST & NOON – FAIRFAX – DENNY’S, 10473 FAIRFAX BLVD.

THURSDAY @ 8:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – RICHMOND – SHONEY’S AT HULL & COURTHOUSE & NOON – LYNCHBURG – PANERA BREAD, 3901 OLD FOREST RD.

FRIDAY @ 8:30 AM –BIBLE STUDY – SUFFOLK – CHICK-FIL-A, 6212 COLLEGE DRIVE, NEAR HAMPTON ROADS CROSSING

Virginia

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HE WHO JUSTIFIES THE WICKED, AND HE WHO CONDEMNS THE JUST, BOTH OF THEM ALIKE ARE AN ABOMINATION TO THE LORD. PROVERBS 17:15

I. THE LIONS FED

DANIEL 6:24

King Darius was delighted that God's angel had rescued Daniel, the only leader he knew he could trust, and "*was exceedingly glad*" (6:23), especially finding there was not even a scratch on him. Everyone knew it was "*because he had believed in his God.*" Darius had sinned against his conscience and justice but he had repented all night and now was determined to give justice to these murderers who had plotted such a violent death for Daniel. In reality, they had returned evil for the goodness of King Darius in giving them their leadership. Darius determined that true justice would be to give them the very sentence of execution that they had conspired to bring upon Daniel. Like Achan (Joshua 7), their sin involved others. Thus, they and all who were no doubt complicit with them in their conspiracy were cast to the lions. Proving that the king had neither fed nor drugged the lions, these conspirators have their bones crushed in the powerful jaws of these beasts leaping up to take their prey, so that they are overpowered before they even reach the floor.

WHOEVER DIGS A PIT WILL FALL INTO IT, AND HE WHO ROLLS A STONE WILL HAVE IT ROLL BACK ON HIM. PROVERBS 26:27

II. THE LORD FOREVER

DANIEL 6:25-27

King Darius corrects his former decree immediately with a counter decree. It begins the same as Nebuchadnezzar's "*Peace be multiplied to you,*" revealing his desire for their well-being, somewhat like Paul's salutation in his letters, "*Grace to you and peace.*" Probably having learned from Daniel that "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of*

wisdom" (Ps. 111:10, Prov. 9:10), Darius exhorts his people to "*tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.*" His faith in this God is demonstrated most clearly in his next words, "*For He is the living God and steadfast forever.*" With these words he is contrasting all the dead idols, fabricated by the hands of men, that most people worshipped, with the God who is alive. Just recently he had decreed that he was like one of these gods and they were only to pray to him. Now he recognizes that this living God has a greater kingdom over him "*which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end.*" In contrast to being trapped by his own foolish law and thus being unable to rescue Daniel, "*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.*" King Darius now fears "*the living God*" and delights to exalt Him above all others.

THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT, CONVERTING THE SOUL; THE TESTIMONY OF THE LORD IS SURE, MAKING WISE THE SIMPLE; THE STATUTES OF THE LORD ARE RIGHT, REJOICING THE HEART; THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD IS PURE, ENLIGHTNING THE EYES; THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS CLEAN, ENDURING FOREVER; THE JUDGMENTS OF THE LORD ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS ALTOGETHER. MORE TO BE DESIRED ARE THEY THAN GOLD, YEA, THAN MUCH FINE GOLD; SWEETER ALSO THAN THE HONEY AND THE HONEYCOMB. PSALM 19:7-10

III. THE LEADER FAVORED

DANIEL 6:28

When it says this man of prayer "*prospered*" it suggests he was successful, not only politically, but in every way, so that he was an example and witness to his king. Daniel would have now been set over the kingdom both by the will of the king and by default, in the death of the other two governors who conspired against him. Not only is he given the opportunity to benefit his people, but he would have been a witness also to the next emperor, Cyrus.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Have you repented of your sin and turned to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
- 2) Are you willing to challenge the status quo and exalt the living God whose kingdom is over all?
- 3) Do you pray for the leaders around you and take the opportunities God gives you to be a witness to them?