### Daniel

## Chapter 6

1Darius thereafter appointed 120 governors to be in charge of his kingdom. 2Then he appointed three ministers to be over them (to whom the governors had to report), because the king didn’t want to be bothered… And DaniEl was one of these ministers. 3And because he had an extra portion of [God’s] Breath, DaniEl was placed over the other two ministers, so that he was in fact in charge of the whole kingdom.  
  
4Of course, the other two ministers and the governors [weren’t pleased with this], so they kept looking to find some wrongdoing that they could use as an accusation against DaniEl. However, they couldn’t find any excuse, sin, or error against him, because DaniEl was always faithful.  
  
5Well, the other two ministers soon came to realize that the only thing they could use against DaniEl was the Law of his God. 6So they and the governors went before the king and said this:  
  
 ‘O King Darius,  
  
 ‘May you live throughout the ages!  
  
 7‘We, the generals, governors, and supreme leaders whom you’ve appointed over your kingdom – those whom you’ve appointed to royal positions – have met together, and we want you to enact [this law] to strengthen [your rule]:  
  
 ‘Anyone who makes a request of any man or god other than you for the next 30 days, O king, must be thrown into the lion’s pit.’  
  
 8‘Please, O king, enact this law and write it for public display, since the decrees of the Medes and Persians can’t be changed.’  
  
9As a result, King Darius gave orders for the decree to be written.  
  
10However, when DaniEl found out about the decree, he just went home, and there in an upper room before open windows that faced JeruSalem, he bent down on his knees to praise and pray before his God. [He did this] three times, the same as he’d always done.  
  
11Well, those men had been watching him closely. So when they saw DaniEl petitioning and begging before his God, 12they went to the king and said:  
  
 ‘O king!  
  
 ‘Didn’t you enact an order saying that anyone who makes a request of a god or a man other than from you for the next 30 days should be thrown into the lion’s pit?’  
  
And the king replied:  
  
 ‘What you say is true, and the decrees of the Medes and Persians may not be changed!’  
  
13So they said to the king:  
  
 ‘We wish to report to you that DaniEl – one of those who was brought as a captive from Judah – hasn’t followed your decree, for today he still prayed before his God three times!’  
  
14Well, this really disturbed the king, and although he wanted to do something to save DaniEl, 15those men said to the king:  
  
 ‘You must know, O king, that any decree of the Medes and Persians may not be altered once the king has enacted it, no matter what the circumstances or what position [the person] may hold!’  
  
16So the king gave the order, and they took DaniEl out to throw him into the pit of lions. [But before they threw him in], the king asked DaniEl:  
  
 ‘Will your God, whom you’ve served so faithfully, rescue you?’  
  
17[Well after that, they threw him in], and they took a stone slab and placed it over the top of the pit. They then sealed it with the king’s ring, and with the rings of his top men, so that nothing could be changed for DaniEl. 18And thereafter, the king returned to his palace and went to bed without eating any supper… He had no food brought him, and he wasn’t able to sleep.  
  
19Then, when the king got up the next morning (at daybreak), he went out to the lion’s pit. And as he was approaching it, he called out to DaniEl, shouting loudly:  
  
 20‘O DaniEl… O servant of the Living God… Has your God whom you’ve served so faithfully been able to rescue you from the mouths of the lions?’  
  
21And DaniEl replied:  
  
 ‘O king,  
  
 ‘May you live throughout the ages!  
  
 22‘Yes, my God sent His messenger who blocked the mouths of the lions. They haven’t been able to destroy me, because [my God] has found me to be righteous… And I haven’t done anything against you either, O king.’  
  
23Well, the king was overjoyed by this, and he gave the order that DaniEl was to be taken out of the pit. And when they lifted him out, they found that DaniEl hadn’t been harmed in any way, because he had trusted in his God.  
  
24Then the king gave orders and they took the men who had accused DaniEl and threw them, their sons, and their wives into the lion’s pit… And they hadn’t even reached the floor before the lions had them! They even chewed up their bones, so all that remained of them was just dust!  
  
25And after that, King Darius wrote a letter to all the peoples, tribes, and languages throughout the whole earth that said this:  
  
 ‘May you have peace!  
  
 26‘From my presence, I’ve sent this decree to all states throughout my realm:  
  
 ‘Before the face of DaniEl’s God  
 All should tremble and fear.  
 For, He’s the one Living God  
 And He exists throughout the ages.  
  
 ‘His Kingdom won’t be destroyed  
 And it will last throughout the ages…  
 He alone will rule ‘til the end.  
  
 27‘He snatches away and He rescues;  
 He sends us miracles and signs  
 Both in the heavens and on the earth…  
 For, this is the One who saved DaniEl  
 From the mouths of the lions.’  
  
28So DaniEl continued to prosper during the reign of Darius, and on into the reign of Cyrus the Persian.