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a ***Grace Notes*** course

## **Daniel**

an expositional study  
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Lesson 106

### **Daniel Chapter 6**

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## Daniel 106 – Chapter 6

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## Daniel 6

### 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 this 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.**

Chapter 6 advances the historical time significantly ahead of chapter five.

Jeremiah 50:9 predicts that the Medes and Persians will defeat the Neo-Babylonian Empire. This included the army of Cyrus and the armies of the Median king Astyages and Croesus of Lydia. Jeremiah 50 and 51 describe the actual fall of Babylon.

**Jeremiah 51:11.** Make the arrows bright! Gather the shields! The Lord has raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes. For His plan is against Babylon to destroy it, Because it is the vengeance of the Lord, The vengeance for His temple.

Cyrus was the Lord's anointed (Jeremiah 45:1; 2 Chronicles 36:22,23; Ezra 1:1-4; Isaiah 44:28; 45:1-5). Cyrus' general, Gobryas, captured Babylon. Darius assumed the role of King of Babylon. He was the son of Ahasuerus (title for king, 9:1) of the seed of the Medes. The Jewish historian Josephus verified this fact (Jewish Antiquities, Book X).

"Now Darius, who with his relative Cyrus put an end to the Babylonian sovereignty, was in his sixty-second year when he took Babylon; he was a son of Astyages but was called by another name among the Greeks."

The kingdoms of Media and Persia were related by marriage. The Median King Astyages arranged the marriage of his daughter Mandane to Cambyses, King of Anshan, who later became King of Persia. This union produced Cyrus the Great, King of Anshan, who later became King of Persia. Astyages' son was Darius Cyaxares II who was Darius the Mede of Daniel 5:31 and 6:1. He was the uncle of Cyrus the Great. Cyrus left the throne of Babylon to Darius. Cyrus married the daughter of his uncle Darius two years later uniting the two kingdoms and made himself King of Persia.

Daniel 6 occurred during the two-year reign of Darius the Mede. The two arms of Nebuchadnezzar's image were the two kingdoms of Media and Anshan that merged into the Persian Empire.

Daniel, now in his eighties, appointed 120 satraps to administer the kingdom. A satrap is a guardian, watcher. These people watched over Babylon administratively.

Daniel put three governors over the 120 satraps of whom he was one.

Darius placed Daniel over his entire kingdom because of his outstanding administrative abilities. God promotes prepared people. He was a man of the Word. He looked at the world through the eyes of God. That is why God revealed to him divine truth. Daniel's excellent spirit was due to his knowledge of the Word of God (5:12). We see this in his study of Jeremiah.

**PRINCIPLE:** God moves the believer beyond his natural capacity if he or she builds a body of truth in the soul and applies it to experience.

**APPLICATION:** When a believer builds up a soul full of God's viewpoint on life, he goes beyond his natural capacity. God always rewards the believer who operates on His economy and is faithful to that economy.

### Daniel 6:4

**So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel**

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**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.**

The governors and satraps tried to dig up a charge against Daniel's leadership out of jealousy. They wanted to find a way to discredit him.

**PRINCIPLE:** Success of some always leads to jealousy in others.

**APPLICATION:** Whenever we find ourselves in leadership whether in politics, business or Christian work, there are those who are jealous of our accomplishments. Their envy will attempt to diminish us. They will look for any weakness, any flaw to detract from the leader. They will use it against the leader.

Christian leaders are always targets of Satan to undermine the trust of God's work. Jealousy and envy always destroy what they touch. It is a destructive power. It is petty.

**Proverbs 27:4.** Wrath is cruel, and anger a torrent, But who is able to stand before jealousy?

**Matthew 27:18.** For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

**Acts 7:9.** And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him...

For the sake of Jesus Christ and the testimony of the church, leaders should be blameless (not sinless).

**Acts 24:16.** This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

**Philippians 2:15.** ...that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...

Not all leaders are blameless so there is a need for objective criticism of leadership that is free

from envy. Love always believes the best until it knows otherwise.

**1 Corinthians 13:7.** ...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**Daniel 6:5**

**Then these men said, We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.**

After an extensive search on Daniel's background, his adversaries could not find any fault or corruption in his leadership so they tried to find some inconsistency in his beliefs. They could not find any skeletons in his political or character closet. They must have been amazed to find a person of such sterling character. They chose a device that used Daniel's belief against him.

**PRINCIPLE:** All those who live dynamically before God will come under attack.

**APPLICATION:** All faithful believers will at some time or other find themselves under attack for their belief. This is part of the satanic system of undermining our testimony. Satan uses his fallen angels to attack believers who take a stand for God.

God gives those who know the Word a sense of personal peace. They walk unperturbed and foreboding no matter what trial they might face.

Polycarp was a disciple of the apostle John. Enemies of Christianity put him on a stake to be burned in Smyrna (A.D. 155). They gave him a chance to recant his faith before they lit the fire. He said, "Eight and sixty years have I served Him, and He has done me no harm. Why should I forsake Him now?"

**Isaiah 26:3.** You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

God asks us to be open and public with our faith. He asks us to pray in private and in

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public. He expects us to live our life before Him in private and in public.

**Matthew 10:33.** But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

**Romans 10:9, 10 .** ...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

#### Daniel 6:6-9

**So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: King Darius, live forever!**

**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.**

**Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.**

**Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.**

Having not found any flaw in Daniel's leadership, the 122 administrators tried to set up Darius to undermine Daniel. They seized on the very thing Daniel was noted for – consistency in his belief.

The plot against Daniel centered on his worship and Darius' ego. All of Darius' subjects were to address their prayer to the king. The penalty for not obeying this statute was to be cast into a den of lions.

People of vengeance have attitudinal problems. These attitudinal problems manifest

themselves in overt action. Daniel's enemies actively conspired against him. They used machination to undermine him.

Since this played to the pride of the king, he acquiesced to the suggestion that all prayer be addressed to him.

The plan appealed to the Darius' vainglory so he signed a decree. All laws of the Medo-Persian Empire were irrevocable.

**PRINCIPLE:** Legislation can never provide equality.

**APPLICATION:** Attitudinal sins contaminate people within its sphere of operation. Under God's economy, He designs civil law to protect and give freedom to the individual. Some people use law as a weapon. This legalism distorts wholesome life in a national entity. When governments begin to make law to control its citizens rather than provide protection and afford freedom, we end up with organizations like the ACLU who try to control citizens by lawsuits. Legislation can never make man equal. A federal government cannot rectify all social and moral ills. Only regeneration can do that.

#### Daniel 6:10

**Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.**

Having knowledge of Darius' decree, Daniel did not hesitate to worship his God. He followed his customary practice from the beginning of his walk with God – as was his custom since early days. This event did not perturb him. He was sedate and stately, a man of quiet assurance. He did not enter into a state of anxiety and apprehension.

Daniel had a habit and place of prayer. He allowed nothing to interfere with this practice. He was a man who utterly depended on God for

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his needs. Guidance and thanksgiving were part of his prayer life.

Daniel did not leave his window open out of a sense of phony religious pride but because of a need for air conditioning!

**PRINCIPLE:** God gives stability of soul in crisis.

**APPLICATION:** As Daniel, we need to commit every crisis to God's sovereignty. Under God's economy, we present our problems to Him in prayer. This gives a stability of soul that no psychological mechanism can provide.

**Psalms 55:22.** Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

**Philippians 4:6.** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

As Daniel, we should give thanks for everything. We put everything in God's hands.

**1 Samuel 3:18.** Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him. And he said, 'It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him.'

#### Daniel 6:11

**Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.**

Daniel did not hide his worship. Daniel followed Jeremiah in this. Although Daniel was busy as an administrator of a kingdom, he kept short accounts with God.

**Jeremiah 29:1,10-12.** Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the remainder of the elders who were carried away captive—to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon.

For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

**PRINCIPLE:** The claim that we do not have time for prayer is a rationalization.

**APPLICATION:** Many busy executives claim that they do not have time for God. This is always a rationalization. It is a matter of putting priority on the things of greatest value.

#### Daniel 6:12-18

**And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.**

**So they answered and said before the king, That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.**

**And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.**

**Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, 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.**

**So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den**

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**of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.**

**Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.**

**Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him.**

Daniel's accusers went before the king and reminded him of his decree. Even the king himself could not alter his decree.

The enemies of Daniel remind the king that Daniel was a captive from Judah. They charged Daniel with two violations against the king:

1. They said that Daniel does not show respect to the king himself.
2. They said that Daniel does not respect national law.

Darius was greatly displeased with himself for allowing himself to be ensnared by those who plotted against Daniel. Darius tried to find some way to deliver Daniel but found none. Hindsight is always 20/20.

The plotters manipulated the king into killing Daniel.

Darius expressed a desire that God spare Daniel. He also noted that Daniel served God continually. Daniel had a clear testimony before Darius.

They sealed the mouth of the den of lions with a royal seal so that no one could tamper with the king's decree.

King Darius went into fasting and sleeplessness over the situation with Daniel. He cancelled entertainment from the musicians for the evening. The king could not sleep but Daniel probably used one of the lions for a pillow and slept like cub!

**PRINCIPLE:** Attitudinal sins produce instability.

**APPLICATION:** If we yield to approbatory lust, we distort our soul. At one moment, we relish in personal attention and at the next, we enter despair. We make a royal mess of our lives when we live by highs and lows like this.

#### **Daniel 6:19-20**

**Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions.**

**And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?**

King Darius had insomnia that night so he rose early in the morning to see what had happened to Daniel in the den of lions.

The king spoke with a lamenting (sad) voice. His mind was full of anguish. He feared that there would be dead silence when he called to Daniel.

The king's question revolved around whether Daniel's God delivered him. Wealth and position did not address the anxiety of the king. Neither wealth nor position guarantee satisfaction. His luxury and splendid palace did not comfort him. Had Darius believed his own statement that your God will deliver you, his personal life would not be in such disorder. He was totally despondent and discouraged.

Darius recognized that Daniel served God continually. He did not stop serving God when things got rough. Some people serve God for success. Daniel served God in success and disappointment. Fellowship with the Lord was more real to him than any scenario of success. No honor or status symbol deflected him from his highest priority.

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**PRINCIPLE:** Circumstances do not determine the bearing of the mature believer but orientation to God's Word does.

**APPLICATION:** Divine power is never the issue in our deliverance. The issue is always one of divine sovereignty and will. If deliverance is in God's plan, God will rescue us from our situation. God always has a plan for the believer whether by life or by death. Release from suffering on earth is as much deliverance as freedom from our problem. This is why the believer can stay calm and collected under great duress.

We cannot say without qualification, God, heal me of cancer. That is an issue of God's will. God's purpose for each believer is different.

Circumstances did not dictate his orientation. That was the difference between the trauma in the king's palace and calmness of Daniel in the lions' den.

#### Daniel 6:21-22

**Then Daniel said to the king, O king, live forever!**

**My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.**

The sound of Daniel's voice must have been a shock to Darius. He probably expected the awful hush of death. Daniel did not admonish the king for throwing him in the den or insist that he punish those who undermined him. He did none of that. He was not the malicious type. Instead, he used normal court protocol, O king, live forever!

The use of the personal pronoun my God shows Daniel's consciousness of his personal relationship to God. Daniel explains to Darius that an angel delivered him from the lions. He gave glory to God for the deliverance.

The words "sent His angel" are a reference to a theophany (a manifestation of Christ in the Old

Testament). This is the Angel of Jehovah. The presence of God was with Daniel in the den. Daniel's concern to tell Darius how it happened is an issue of the glory of God. God did not shield him from trial but in trial.

**Deuteronomy 31:6.** Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

Daniel was innocent before God. Actually, the word means purity. He was found in purity. The idea is that Daniel lived a consistent way of life before God. He committed no crime or violation against the king or his kingdom.

**PRINCIPLE:** God does not shield us from trial but gives us grace in trial.

**APPLICATION:** Every believer should live his or her life unto the Lord and leave the results in His hands. God does not shield us from trial but gives us grace to live in the trial. He promises His presence in whatever we face.

**Isaiah 41:10.** Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

**Hebrews 13:5.** Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'

#### Daniel 6:23

**Then the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.**

King Darius was on an emotional high. Just an hour before this, he was on an emotional low. He did not have stability because he did not trust in a sovereign God. Daniel had stability because of his faith.



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**Hebrews 11:33.** ...who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions...

**PRINCIPLE:** Lasting stability comes through faith.

**APPLICATION:** The person with strong faith has great stability of soul. He understands something of God's sovereignty in his life.

God's deliverance is perfect because He is perfect. When we put our trust in Him, we acquire a sense of stability and security. By appropriating God's grace and provision for our souls, we give glory to what God provides and does for us.

**Jeremiah 17:5-7.** Thus says the Lord:  
Cursed is the man who trusts in man And  
makes flesh his strength, Whose heart  
departs from the Lord.

For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And  
shall not see when good comes, But shall  
inhabit the parched places in the wilderness,  
In a salt land which is not inhabited.

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,  
And whose hope is the Lord.