

Daniel 6

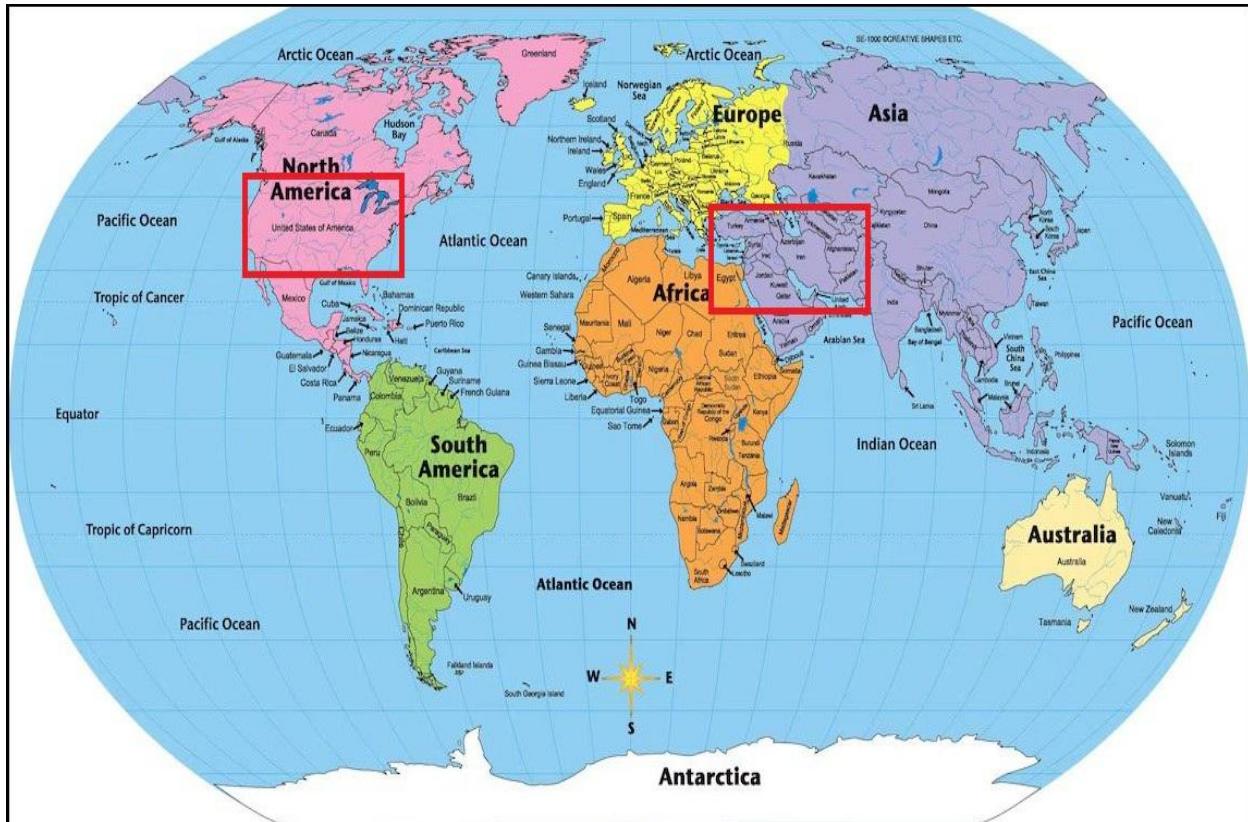
Verses 1- 3

It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, to be in charge of the whole kingdom,² and over them, three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), so that these satraps would be accountable to them, and that the king would not suffer loss.³ Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king intended to appoint him over the entire kingdom.

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The Persian Empire was comparable to the contiguous US in size but with a much smaller population of about 50 million.

See Map 605



During the time of Ester, about 60 years later, Xerxes ruled over 127 provinces.

See chart 610



² and over them, three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), so that these satraps would be accountable to them, and that the king would not suffer loss.

Three men (and Daniel was one of them) were put over the 120 satraps so each commissioner oversaw about 40 governors. These three reported to the king.

³ Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king intended to appoint him over the entire kingdom.

God had blessed Daniel with some great abilities and each successive king found him to be worthy of the #2 position.

Verses 4 - 9

⁴ Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel regarding government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, because he was trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him. **⁵ Then these men said, “We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him regarding the law of his God.”** **⁶ Then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows: “King Darius, live forever!** **⁷ All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors, have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who offers a prayer to any god or person besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be thrown into the lions’ den.** **⁸ Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it will not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked.”** **⁹ Thereupon, King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.**

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When it comes to politics, little has changed in the last 2500 years. Politicians often seek to get dirt on their opponents so they hire professionals who specialize in opposition research. In the case of Daniel nothing negative could be found so they chose another line of attack.

⁵ Then these men said, “We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him regarding the law of his God.”

If a politician is honest like Daniel then his opponents will use personal attacks that target his age, race or religion.

⁷ All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors, have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who offers a prayer to any god or person besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be thrown into the lions' den.

This was a well-designed plan

1. They knew Daniel could not worship any god except the Lord God.
2. This would appeal to the king's sense of pride because it appeared that all of the king's officials held the king in high esteem.

⁸ Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it will not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked." ⁹ Thereupon, King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.

This forced the king to do something that he was not in favor of doing. Did none of these men realize that deceiving a king could cost them their lives?

Verses 10 - 15

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the document was signed, he entered his house (and in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and offering praise before his God, just as he had been doing previously. ¹¹ Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel offering a prayer and imploring *favor* before his God. ¹² Then they approached and spoke before the king about the king's injunction: "Did you not sign an injunction that any person who offers a prayer to any god or person besides you, O king, for thirty days, is to be thrown into the lions' den?" The king replied, "The statement is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked." ¹³ Then they responded and spoke before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps offering his prayer three times a day." ¹⁴ Then, as soon as the king heard this statement, he was deeply distressed, and set *his* mind on rescuing Daniel; and until sunset he kept exerting himself to save him. ¹⁵ Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the document was signed, he entered his house and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and offering praise before his God, just as he had been doing previously.

The king's edict did not change Daniels routine because Daniel was a man of great faith. Daniel had believed in God from an early age and he had the advantage of witnessing a number of miracles.

See chart 615

Daniel's past experiences	
Chapter	Miracles
1	Daniel and 3 friends ten times better than all the others
2	Nebuchadnezzar's dream revealed to Daniel
3	His three friends saved from the fiery furnace
4	Daniel interprets the vision of the great tree
5	The handwriting on the wall

Our personal experiences with God should not be underestimated because they help us grow in our faith and remain faithful to the Lord.

See Joshua 24:31

³¹ Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who survived Joshua, and had known every deed of the Lord which He had done for Israel.

¹³ Then they responded and spoke before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps offering his prayer three times a day."

Here we can see that they attacked his race and religion. Daniel was a foreigner with a strange religion.

¹⁴ Then, as soon as the king heard this statement, he was deeply distressed, and set *his* mind on rescuing Daniel; and until sunset he kept exerting himself to save him.

At this point the king probably realized that he had been tricked by the commissioners, the prefects, the satraps, the counselors and the governors but the law was the law.

¹⁵ Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed.”

It would have created anarchy in the kingdom if the king refused to throw Daniel to the lions.

Verses 16 - 18

¹⁶ Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and thrown into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, “Your God whom you continually serve will Himself rescue you.” ¹⁷ And a stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed regarding Daniel. ¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him.

¹⁶ Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and thrown into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, “Your God whom you continually serve will Himself rescue you.”

It was nice that the king tried to encourage Daniel but the truth of the matter is in any given situation we don't know if God will give us a great victory or whether we may suffer and/or die for our faith. There will be more on this in just a few verses.

¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him.

The king showed his heart felt concern for Daniel by fasting and refusing to be entertained. Nevertheless, it was a sleepless night for the King.

Verses 19 - 24

¹⁹ Then the king got up at dawn, at the break of day, and went in a hurry to the lions' den. ²⁰ And when he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king began speaking and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you continually serve, been able to rescue you from the lions?" ²¹ Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever! ²² My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, since I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime." ²³ Then the king was very glad and gave orders for Daniel to be lifted up out of the den. So Daniel was lifted up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴ The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they threw them, their children, and their wives into the lions' den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

²⁰ And when he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king began speaking and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you continually serve, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

God is always able to rescue His servants, the only question is, is it his will to do so. As mere mortals we never know for sure what God may do in any given situation. Like Daniel's 3 friends had said, they believed that they would be saved but even if God did not save them, they would not worship the golden statue.

See Daniel 3:17 - 18

¹⁷ If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods nor worship the golden statue that you have set up."

²¹ Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever! ²² My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, since I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime."

It's interesting that it says His angel, not an angel. This may be implying that this was the angel of the Lord, meaning it was our Lord.

²⁴ The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they threw them, their children, and their wives into the lions' den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

We don't know for sure how many men accused Daniel before the king but it must have been quite a few because in verse 7 it said the following:

⁷ All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors, have consulted together ...

Their wives and kids also suffered a terrible death because of their crime against Daniel. It's very sad that innocent people had to die for the sins of these men. ☹

Verses 25 - 27

²⁵ Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations, and *populations of all* languages who were living in all the land: "May your peace be great! ²⁶ I issue a decree that in all the realm of my kingdom people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel;

For He is the living God and enduring forever,
And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed,
And His dominion *will be* forever.

²⁷ He rescues, saves, and performs signs and miracles
In heaven and on earth,
He who has *also* rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

²⁸ So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

²⁶ I issue a decree that in all the realm of my kingdom people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel;

For He is the living God and enduring forever,
And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed,
And His dominion *will be* forever.

This miracle resulted in all the gentiles of the Persian kingdom to hear about the one true God. This also happened in chapter 3 under the reign of Nebuchadnezzar during the time of the Babylonian Empire.

²⁸ So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

As was mentioned in the last chapter secular historians have Cyrus as the 1st king of Medo-Persia and say there is no evidence of a king named Darius as the first king of Persia.

See chart 620

Kings of Persia		539 to 330 BC
King	Reign	
Cyrus	559 - 529	
Cambyses	529-522	
Smerdis (Bardiya)	522 BC	
Darius I (Hystaspes)	521-486	
Xerxes I (Ahashuerus)	485-465	
Artaxerxes (Longimanus)	465-424	
Xerxes II	424	
Sogdianus of Persia	424 – 423 BC	
Darius II (Nothus)	423-405	
Artaxerxes (Mnemon)	404-359	
Artaxerxes III of Persia Ochus	358 – 338 BC	
Arses of Persia (Artaxerxes IV)	338 – 336 BC	
Darius III of Persia Codomannus	336 – 330 BC	

Sometimes it takes a long time for archeologists to find the evidence that supports what the bible teaches concerning certain events and people but as we have seen more and more biblical facts keep being confirmed as the amount of archaeology increases around the world.