

DANIEL
CHAPTER

6

DAY | ONE

1. Please listen to this chapter twice.
It is an Old Testament favorite. Ask most people what some of their favorite Old Testament stories are, and “Daniel in the lion’s den” will often be in the top ten. This may be a very familiar story but if you pay close attention, you will glean new truths from its depths.
2. Read Daniel 5:30-31 to refresh your memory.
In what way have things changed for all those who living in Babylon?
3. In the first chapter of this book, Daniel was a young man taken into captivity. He was probably no more than 15 years old. He served under two important Babylonian kings while he was captive.
Who were the two kings?

Daniel 1:1 _____ the years of his reign were 605 – 553 BC.

Daniel 5:1 _____ the years of his reign were 553 – 539 BC.

Approximately, how old would Daniel be at the opening of this chapter?

4. As Daniel 6:1 begins, Darius is the new ruler over the kingdom of Babylon. He is not a young ruler; he is in his early 60s. He has had many life experiences.
Like any new regime or government, Darius begins lining up his staff. He appoints _____ satraps to rule throughout the kingdom. Satraps are very similar to a prince or governor who would help govern the people.
What do you learn about Daniel in verse 1-3?
5. The text does not tell us how he distinguished himself during this time, but once again God’s favor is on him. Daniel is one of the three key rulers under Darius and over all the satraps.
According to verse 3, what position is he about to have bestowed on him?
6. Daniel distinguished himself by serving to the best of his God-given abilities every day, with no grumbling or complaining about being in captivity under a pagan ruler and no disgruntled attitude or slacking because of discontentment. Who was the focus of Daniel’s service?
7. Not everyone in the kingdom is happy to hear Daniel is fairing so well under this new ruler.
When word gets out that he is about to be promoted, what is the consensus among the other leaders?
What words would describe the feelings of the satraps?
8. Great authority often comes with great jealousies; this is no exception. Daniel is no longer a young man. He has experienced jealousy many times and knows exactly how to handle it.
What is your track record with jealousy?
How do you respond when someone is against you for no good reason?
Think of the last time you experienced jealousy. How did you handle it?
9. The satraps might have been jealous of anyone the King would choose to place over them.
What is one possible reason for their jealousy toward Daniel?
Is he a Persian?
Is he a Babylonian?
What is his nationality?
Why is Daniel in this kingdom?

10. Jealousy is a very common response when we see someone elevated to a position of authority and we do not feel they were qualified. Think of the last political leader elected who was not a man you voted for; how did you feel about being under their rule?

You may not have actually worked under them, but you were under their authority. What words filled your conversations while they were in that office? (you need not write an answer just remember)

Did you still carry out your work each day like Daniel did?

Did you have the attitude that God is sovereign in the affairs of the earth?

Regardless of your opinion of our leaders, what does Paul urge us to do in I Timothy 2:1-2?

11. Are jealousy and discrimination still a problem in our world today?

12. Perhaps, you have been the one jealous? These thoughts may cross your mind:

“Why did she get that job”?

“Why does everyone think she is so great”?

“What about me”?

“I work as hard as she does; I feel overlooked.”

Read Mark 12:30-31 and James 3:13-18 and write what these verses say about jealousy?

13. Those who were jealous of Daniel did not keep their thoughts to themselves. They got together to discuss the injustice of having him over them. What plan did they come up with in verses 4-5?
14. They will have a hard time finding something to charge Daniel with. What did the scripture say about Daniel in verse 4b?
What did the administrators and satraps say about him in vs. 5?
15. Define these words.
- Trustworthy:
 - Honest:
 - Diligent:
16. Do you know anyone like this?
17. The jealous satraps concluded, “if we are going to find fault in Daniel, it is going to have to be something to do with the way he loves and serves his God.”
Can you imagine living your life in such a way that nothing bad could be said against you?
18. What would it take to live a life like this?
Go back and read the first few words of Daniel 1: 8. What had Daniel purposed in his heart?

19. In Daniel 6:6-8, we read of these men's fiendish plan.
- Daniel 6:6, Flattery
What did they say to the king?
 - Daniel 6:7, Trickery
What was the plan they came up with?
 - Daniel 6:7, Time frame
What was the period?
Why do you think they said this?
 - Daniel 6-7, Penalty
What was the penalty for not obeying the decree?
20. We should be very careful to take flattery with a grain of salt. What is the difference between flattery and a compliment?
21. Read Proverbs 29:5.
How might flattery be a trap for us?
Think about the net, what is its purpose?
It is intentionally and methodically laid out to deceive and then to _____.
22. Even though the idea of this really stroked the king's ego, what could he have done to possibly save himself from being trapped like this?
- This is important for us to consider so that we are not trapped in someone else's fiendish plan. Of course, we see he did nothing because their plan appealed to his ego. He simply listened to the idea, agreed, and signed the decree.
23. Often when someone talks about Daniel in the lion's den, they tend to focus on his courage. He was courageous. That is true. What are some other character qualities you saw in Daniel 6:10, enabling him to be this courageous?
- Read 2 Timothy 4:2 What similar words did the apostle Paul use to encourage his friend Timothy?
24. Daniel was a man who had good habits. He worked hard without grumbling or complaining. He worshiped faithfully, despite adverse surroundings. What good spiritual habits do you have in your life?
25. This is one of my favorite quotes:
*"Watch your thoughts, they become your words;
watch your words, they become your actions;
watch your actions, they become your habits;
watch your habits, they become your character;
watch your character, it becomes your destiny."*
- After reading this, what would you say is your next step? If you don't like the direction you seem to be headed in, what might be your first step in the right direction?
26. Daniel 6:11 says that these men went as a group and found him praying.
What was he praying about?

27. What “little men” they are to act in such a lowly way. What do the men do with the knowledge they had just acquired?
28. Daniel 6:13(NIV), “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, _____ to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you _____.
He still _____ three times a day.”
29. Notice the king’s response at the report of these vile men.
He was _____ . (Verse 14)
30. It really is a case of “too little, too late.”
What do we see the king try to do?
31. Have you ever found yourself in a “lose, lose” situation? There seems to be no good way out. You felt trapped to make a choice against your own desires? How did you handle it?
32. Why was there no loophole the king could use to save Daniel? Read Daniel 6:8,12,15.
What type of decree had he written?

What is the distinguishing characteristic of this type of decree (Dan 6:8)?
33. Why do you believe this law appealed to Darius when it was first presented to him?
What does it say about him?
34. Time is up. Daniel is thrown into the lion’s den. This was probably a pit or cell that was open at the top for feeding the lions. This was a designated place for those sentenced to the horror of this cruel death.
What were the king’s last words to Daniel?
35. Such a terrible injustice. Have you ever suffered an injustice for simply living a godly life?
If not, have you heard of others who have suffered terrible atrocities for their godly lifestyle?
36. Not only was Daniel thrown into the pit, how much care was given to sealing it? Be as specific as possible.
37. The men who had devised this plan went home and probably felt very proud of their ingenious idea, much like Haman, (Esther 5:14) who ordered gallows built to hang Mordecai.
How would Haman’s plan end?
What does Proverbs 19:21 teach?
38. Continuing in Daniel 6:18, how was the King’s night described?
No _____
No _____
No _____
39. What thoughts do you think were going through his mind all night long?
40. At the first light of dawn, we see the King rush to the lion’s den. What did the king say?

41. Did you notice that even this heathen king acknowledged Daniel's testimony? What did he call Daniel?
42. Daniel answered the King with such respect. I thought this was an amazing response, considering his current situation. One might expect someone down in that pit to say, "Yes! Now get me out of here!!!" Daniel does not say anything like that. He even takes time to explain the events of the night. What did he say had happened in the lion's den on that night?
43. Finally, the King gives the order to drop a rope and pull Daniel out. What happened to the men who had falsely accused Daniel and sealed the opening with their signet ring (Dan 6:17, 24)?

One of the many lessons from this chain of events is to think before signing your name in agreement.

44. I have heard people comment on this story and say, "I bet the lions had already eaten and so they just weren't hungry." How do we know that was not the case? (vs. 24)
45. Can you think of a time God has protected you, or someone you love, from an injustice?

Our God will protect us but that does not mean we will not experience very difficult situations. Please share with your group a time you were protected by God, without giving names or too many details. There will be times when God's protection may go unseen. God's protection may lead us on a path away from disaster. The next time you don't get what you want, or you find yourself stuck at a railroad crossing waiting for the train to pass, or at a traffic light, instead of getting upset, let's consider it could be God's divine protection helping us avoid something farther down the road. Why not thank him for his protection?

46. Read I Peter 2:20, which speaks to suffering an injustice. Think back to the last time you thought or said the words, "That's not fair." How did you handle the injustice you were experiencing?

47. Have you experienced divine favor like Daniel did? How did you respond?

If you have placed your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, then you are a child of the King! However, this must be followed by a life of humility.

48. King Darius wrote a second decree in Dan 6:26-27. Please describe it:
49. The king declared everyone should reverence Daniel's God. List the points of King Darius's decree. What does he declare about God and his power?
50. There are a few steps we can follow that will enable us to face difficult and unfair situations with integrity. Read Romans 12:1, 17-18, 19 and comment on them.
Romans 12:1
Romans 12:17-18
Romans 12:19
51. What possible good can come from enduring unjust treatment with integrity? You might want to go back and read question 25.
52. Which of God's character qualities did you see in Daniel 6?

NOTES