

7—Daniel in the Lion’s Den

Daniel 6

1. What did the hierarchy of government look like in the Medo-Persian kingdom (Daniel 6:1-2)? How had the king thought to alter this because of Daniel (6:3)?
2. As a result of Daniel’s popularity, what did his fellow “*governors*” aim to do? What kind of success were they having finding fault in Daniel (6:4-5)? How should this inspire us?
3. Notice the following verses in Daniel (6:5-9, 12-15, 24). What are the fruits of jealousy and hatred? In what list is this sin found in Galatians 5:19-21?
4. Any leader must be careful of granting the selfish wishes of those who are trying to wield a leader’s power to mobilize grudges and avenge their enemies. What tactics do Daniel’s jealous enemies use to persuade King Darius in 6:6-9?
5. How does Daniel respond to this new law? Does he respond this way out of rebellion or out of natural habit (Daniel 6:10)? What great lesson might we learn from Daniel’s “*custom*?”

6. What was the reaction of King Darius when he realized the decree he had foolishly signed meant that Daniel would have to be thrown to the lions (Daniel 6:14-16)? Can you think of others in the Scriptures who regretted impulsive, prayerless decisions? What lesson might we learn from these characters?



7. What did Darius discover the next morning? How did he react to his discovery? What happened to Daniel's accusers (Daniel 6:19-24)? What great hope does this give the faithful about God's justice and ability to avenge (see Romans 12:17-21; Galatians 6:7; 2 Timothy 2:19; Hebrews 10:31)?

8. Daniel's faith seems to have a powerful impact on the leaders under whom he serves. What did Darius believe about Daniel's God (Daniel 6:16, 19-20)?

9. Hmmm....does Daniel 6:17 sound similar to any New Testament passage?

10. What incredible decree does Darius make after this event (Daniel 6:25-27)? Was his proclamation based on wishful thinking or evidence?