

Daniel Ran the Race of Faith Well

Sunday, May 26, 2024 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

He lived by God's _____. vv. 1-5

He _____ relationship with God. vv. 10 & 9:16-19

He experienced God's _____. vv. 14-22

He _____ others to God's _____. vv. 22, 25-27

Daniel 6

^[1] It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; ^[2] and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. ^[3] Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ^[4] Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. ^[5] Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

^[6] Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! ^[7] All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ^[8] Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." ^[9] Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.

^[10] When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. ^[11] Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. ^[12] Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, "O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." ^[13] Then they answered and said before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."

^[14] Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. ^[15] Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed."

^[16] Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!" ^[17] And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ^[18] Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

^[19] Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. ^[20] As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" ^[21] Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! ^[22] My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm." ^[23] Then the king was exceedingly glad,

and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ^[24] And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

^[25] Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. ^[26] I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel,

for he is the living God,
enduring forever;
his kingdom shall never be destroyed,
and his dominion shall be to the end.

^[27] He delivers and rescues;
he works signs and wonders
in heaven and on earth,
he who has saved Daniel
from the power of the lions."

^[28] So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What do you think those who know you might say are some of your defining characteristics (good and bad)?

Read & Discuss: Daniel 6:1-28

1. According to verses 1-3 Daniel was highly trusted by King Darius. From reading this passage and looking at the previous chapters, what do we know about Daniel's character and performance that would inspire such trust? Why is our character (our actions or the way that we live) important?
2. Notice Daniel's turning to God in prayer was something that he did daily (v. 10). Daniel didn't just know about God; Daniel knows God. What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God? How does that impact the way we handle difficult trials and circumstances in our lives? What patterns in your life do you prioritize to help you know God better?
3. Considering the prayer recorded in Daniel 9:1-19, how would you describe Daniel's desires for God's intervention? How can Daniel's prayer serve as an example for us? Where do you find the biggest discrepancies between the way Daniel prays and the way you pray?
4. King Darius seemed genuinely upset about having to punish Daniel (vv. 14-16). Why do you think he felt this way? How does this story encourage us in the potential impact of a person's faith on those around them? Just as Daniel's faith impacted Darius (vv. 25-27), how can we live out our own faith in ways that positively influence those around us?
5. How does Daniel's miraculous rescue from the lions (vv. 22-23) reinforce for you the concept of God's power and faithfulness? How should we anticipate God's rescuing power in our lives?

Application: While being thrown into a lion's den might not be a common experience today, can you think of situations where our faith might be challenged? How can we apply the lessons from Daniel 6 to navigate these challenges?

Prayer: Pray for God's rescuing grace to be on full display in the lives of your brothers and sisters in Christ. Ask God to fill you with bold confidence in his faithfulness. Plead with God for the ability to see the opportunities he gives us to make him known.