

# God's Watchfulness

## Introduction

### Daniel 6:1-10

1. This chapter begins where chapter five leaves off.
  - A. Darius has taken control of the Babylonian empire.
  - B. It is now the empire of the Medes and Persians.
  - C. Cyrus, the Persian will eventually take control of the kingdom.
  - D. It was Cyrus who would then return the Jews from captivity to their native country.
2. Daniel's story now picks up under Darius' rule.
  - A. In the story of Daniel in the lion's den we see:

## A Conspiracy (Daniel 6:1-10)

1. Darius' organization.
  - A. After he took over, he appointed 120 princes or governors over the kingdom.
  - B. Over these princes, there were three presidents.
  - C. Daniel was made the first president "because an excellent spirit was in him" (v.3).
  - D. This gave Daniel extraordinary influence.

**2. The dissatisfaction of the Governors.**

- A. The princes didn't like this arrangement.**
- B. We don't have their motives in detail.**
- C. Nevertheless, they sought to remove Daniel.**
- D. So they were looking for an occasion against him, but they could not find one.**
- E. Daniel was a very honest man.**

**3. The Governor's invention.**

- A. The Governors get together and they come up with a plan.**
- B. They will have the king pass a law that whoever petitions anyone, God or man for thirty days, except the king, shall be cast into the lion's den.**
- C. The king, not knowing what they were up to, signs the law.**
- D. No doubt, his ego was pretty lifted up by this gesture of the Governors as well.**

**4. Daniel's prostration.**

- A. Daniel saw that the law had passed.**
- B. He went home and opened his windows.**
- C. He prayed to God as was his custom.**

## 5. Some lessons learned:

### A. Dealing wisely in our business affairs will bring us into positions of influence.

Proverbs 22:29 Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.

### B. Daniel's honesty and integrity kept him out of trouble.

Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.

### C. Listening to those who flatter our ego blinds us to their true purposes.

Proverbs 26:28 A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin.

### D. Some things cannot be compromised; prayer is one of them.

#### 1) Prayer is a command.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing,

#### 2) However, God's people desire to pray.

Psalms 55:17 Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.

## **Confrontation and Condemnation (Daniel 6:11-17)**

- 1. The plan consummated.**
  - A. They saw Daniel praying as was his custom.**
  - B. They confirmed the law.**
  - C. They reported this to the king.**
  
- 2. Deliverance sought.**
  - A. The king was displeased with himself.**
  - B. The king sought to have Denial delivered.**
  - C. The law of the Medes and Persians, however could not be reversed.**
  
- 3. Daniel condemned**
  - A. Daniel was thrown in the lion's den.**
  - B. The king professed his confidence that God would deliver Daniel.**
  - C. A stone was brought and sealed over the lion's den with the king's seal.**

#### 4. Some lessons learned:

##### A. The wicked are always seeking to catch the righteous in violation of something.

Psalms 37:32 The wicked watches the righteous, And seeks to slay him.

Psalms 35:21 They also opened their mouth wide against me, And said, "Aha, aha! Our eyes have seen it."

##### B. We should think a thing through before we act on it.

Proverbs 16:20 He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.

Proverbs 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

##### C. We must trust in God even in the most desperate of times.

Psalms 91:2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

**Conservation (Daniel 6:18-23)**

- 1. The king's anticipation.**
  - A. The king fasted all night.**
  - B. He didn't listen to any playing of music.**
  - C. He didn't sleep.**
  
- 2. The king's inspection.**
  - A. When morning came, the king rushed to the lion's den.**
  - B. He cried out with a lamentable voice.**
  - C. He asked if God had delivered Daniel from the lions.**
  
- 3. The king's alleviation.**
  - A. Daniel called out, "O king, live forever."**
  - B. Daniel said that God had sent an angel and shut the mouths of the lions.**
  - C. Daniel pronounces his innocence and tells the king that he has done nothing to hurt him.**
  - D. The king commanded Daniel to be brought out of the lion's den.**

#### **4. Some lessons learned:**

##### **A. We need to take seriously the genuine peril of others.**

- 1) It seems that society likes to laugh at the problems of others.**

Proverbs 24:17-18 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him.

##### **B. Fulfillment of hope brings great joy.**

Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.

### **Consternation and Proclamation (Daniel 6:24-28)**

#### **1. The king's anger.**

- A. Those who plotted against Daniel also made a mockery of the king.**
- B. He took them and cast them into the lion's den with their families.**
- C. This demonstrated the king's wrath against those who manipulated the system for their own purposes.**

**2. The king's proclamation.**

- A. The king decreed that men tremble before Daniel's God.**
- B. This is the living God.**
- C. This is the God whose kingdom shall never be destroyed.**
- D. This is the God who delivers and rescues.**
- E. This is the God who works signs and wonders.**

**3. Some lessons learned:**

- A. If we do evil, we should expect wrath from the government.**

Romans 13:3-4 For rulers are not a terror to good works, **but to evil**. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. **But if you do evil, be afraid**; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath **on him who practices evil**.

- B. There is no reason not to believe in almighty God.**

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world **His invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, **so that they are without excuse**,

## Conclusion

**1. In the story of Daniel in the lion's den we see:**

- A. A conspiracy.**
- B. Confrontation and Condemnation.**
- C. Conservation.**
- D. Consternation and Proclamation.**

**J. Stowell once wrote:**

The Greeks had a race in their Olympic games that was unique. The winner was not the runner who finished first. **It was the runner who finished with his torch still lit.** I want to run all the way with the flame of my torch still lit for Him.

**2. Let's be wise, doing all for the glory of God – no matter what others may do to us. Never waiver from our faith and steadfastness!**

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, **knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

