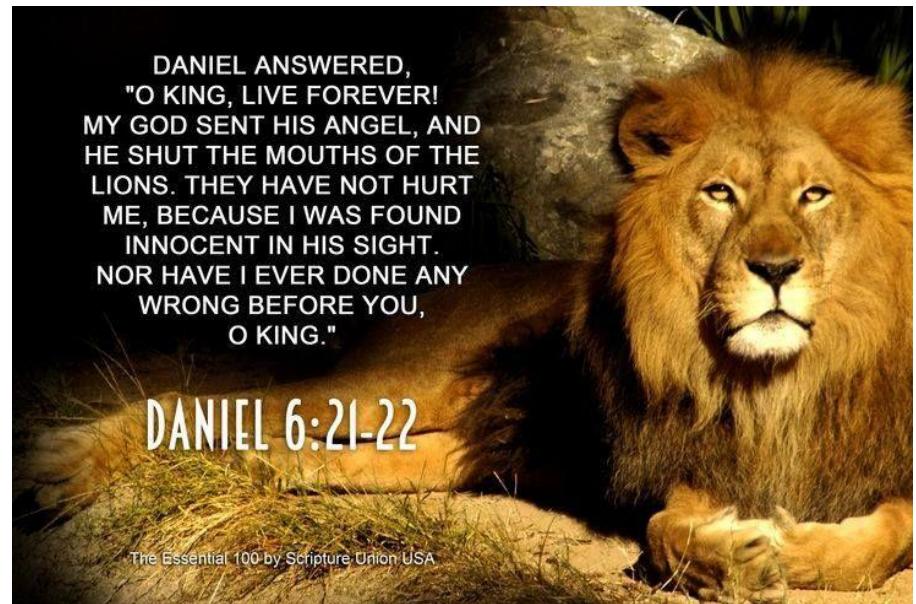
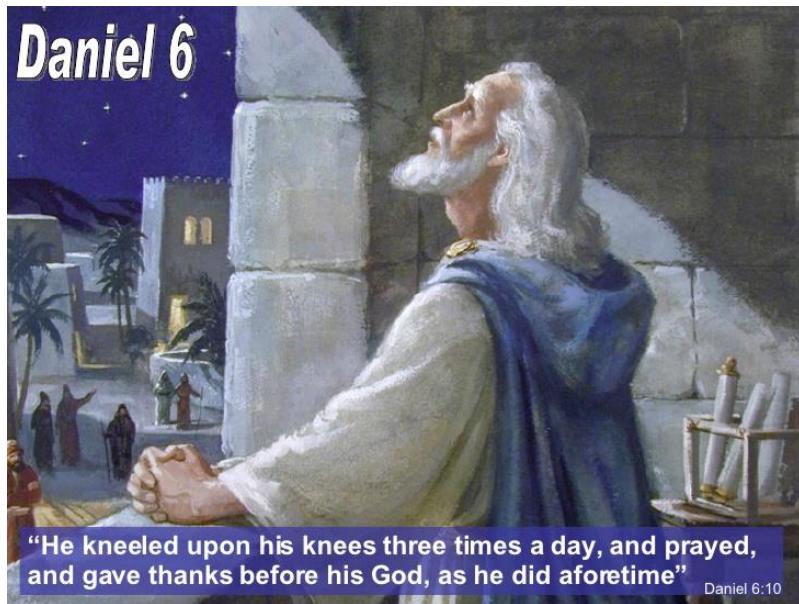


Daniel 6



Transition in Kingdoms

- “But after you (Nebuchadnezzar/Babylon) shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours” (Daniel 2:39).
 - The head of gold (Babylon) has been replaced by the chest and arms of silver (Medo-Persia).
 - Babylon is now just a segment of the Medo-Persian empire, and of this segment, Darius is the man in charge.

Summary of the Account

- Darius set 120 satraps over the whole kingdom, and three governors over them, of whom Daniel was one. Daniel, because of his “excellent spirit” (6:3), distinguished himself above all the other officials.
- Driven by envy, the satraps and governors sought to find some charge against Daniel.
- Unable to find anything against him concerning the kingdom, they looked for something “concerning the law of his God” (6:5).

Summary of the Account

- A number of different officials consulted together to establish this decree: “Whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions” (6:7).
- They presented it to the king and he signed it. (Such a decree would appeal to the king’s what?)
- As soon as Daniel knew it was signed, he went home and in his upper room he did that day what he always did—he prayed and gave thanks to God three times, and he did it with the windows open! (1 Kgs. 8:33, 35).

Summary of the Account

- These same conspirators found Daniel praying and informed the king of his actions.
- Darius was “greatly displeased with himself” (6:14), and sought some way to deliver Daniel from the lions’ den. (Remind you of a ruler in N.T.?)
- They reminded Darius that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed.

Summary of the Account

- Darius gave the command to cast Daniel into the lions' den, but expressed confidence that Daniel's God would deliver him. (How confident, though?)
- Having spent a restless night in fasting, the king got up early the next morning to check on Daniel.
- Darius asked Daniel, “Has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” (6:20).

Summary of the Account

- When Daniel assured Darius that God had delivered him, “the king was exceedingly glad” (6:23), and commanded that Daniel be removed from the den.
- Darius then commanded that Daniel’s accusers, along with their wives and children, be cast into the lions’ den (gruesome details provided in v. 24).
- Darius issued a kingdom wide decree praising God, and saying that everyone “must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel” (6:26).

Character of Daniel

- “Daniel distinguished himself...” (6:3). How so?
 - “Excellent spirit” (6:3; see also 5:12).
 - Prayed regularly, even under the threat of death (6:10).
 - Maintained integrity in all his administrative duties (6:4).
 - Trusted God’s power to deliver him (6:23).
 - Served God continually (6:16, 20).
 - Showed respect to the king (6:13, 21–22).

The Testimony of a Heathen King

- “For He is the living God, and steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall never be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end. He delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions” (6:26–27).

God Still Delivers

- “Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who **delivered** us from so great a death, and shall **deliver** us; in whom we trust that He will still **deliver** us, you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many” (2 Corinthians 1:9–11).

N.T. Character Delivered From Lions?

- “At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!” (2 Timothy 4:16–18).

More importantly...

- “He has **delivered** us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Col. 1:13); He is able to **deliver** us from temptation and sin (Matt. 6:13); and He “**delivers** us from the wrath to come” (1 Thess. 1:10).