

Kingdom Persecution

Daniel 6

PREAMBLE: Before we dig in to this amazing story, a few words regarding the identity of “Darius” may be helpful to you. Since the name “Darius” does not appear in secular records, his identity is a bit of a puzzle. Some point to this as evidence of an “error” in the Bible. It should be pointed out that this is the exact thing that liberal scholars did with the name “Belshazzar” from Daniel 5. They said, since secular history does not mention Belshazzar, we conclude that Daniel is fabricating this story. In 1850 one commentator, Ferdinand Hitzig, declared that Belshazzar was clearly a figment of the writer’s imagination.

But then in 1854, J. G. Taylor was exploring some ruins in southern Iraq for the British Museum. He found several small cylinders with ancient writing on them. After study, he discovered that these cylinders were writing somewhere between 555-539 BC. And what did this writing say? They contained a prayer for the long life and good health of Nabonidus and for his eldest son Belshazzar!! And since the discovery in 1854, every other Babylonian artifacts have been found that also mention Belshazzar. My point is that archaeology has never confirmed the skeptics pessimism and has always supported the Bible’s veracity. There are a number of questions like this one in Daniel 6 regarding Darius that archaeology has NOT YET provided any evidence. But we have NO REASON not to trust the biblical record.

Now regarding Darius, there are several reasonable options to explain his identity other than the accusation that he does not exist. I do not hold my own view very tightly but I lean toward the simplest option . . . **namely that Darius is another name for Cyrus.** It was not unusual for rulers in those days to use different names in different contexts or different parts of their realm. So when we come to verse 28, I believe the verse is better translated, *“So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius, that is the reign of Cyrus.”*

If you wish to learn more about this question, a good commentary or study Bible will likely help you on this. I commend the commentary by James Boice as a great layman’s help to many issues in the book of Daniel.

PRAY

Daniel is over 80 years old when King Belshazzar is killed and King Darius the Mede begins to rule. Daniel has served the Babylonians for the past 66 years with a high position of responsibility. Nebuchadnezzar highly favored him and when Nebuchadnezzar dies, Daniel is treated well by the other Babylonian kings. He is neglected by them but not persecuted.

Now that King Darius receives the kingdom from the LORD, Daniel knows that his life is going to change and that ANYTHING could happen with a new regime. Daniel prays, *“Lord, I am your servant. I will be faithful to You under the Medes and Persians as I was under Babylon. Lord, will You have me to suffer for Your Name? Will you grant me favor in this world?”*

Daniel soon finds out what the LORD ordains! King Darius needs good people whom he can trust to help him administer a new government in his new empire. Every nobleman in Babylon is vying for one of the 120 new leadership positions that Darius creates. One by one, the 120 men are named and Daniel is not among them. Then Darius declares that he is going to appoint three special leaders to be in charge of the 120 high officers. He announces two and then Daniel’s name is announced last! Darius becomes so impressed with Daniel’s wisdom, loyalty, faithfulness and honesty that he plans to place Daniel over his entire empire.

The other leaders are fuming over the favor Darius bestows upon Daniel. Daniel is not even from the area. He is a Hebrew who has always kept to himself, worshipped his God and not the Babylonian gods. He eats a different diet, refuses to come to parties and behaves in weird ways.

The other two top administrators and high ranking officers are so jealous of Daniel that they meet together to see if there is some way to have him removed. **I call them the Get Daniel Group.**

One suggests, *“Daniel has served for 66 years and has been around lots and lots of money. Surely we can look through the ledgers and find someplace where he cheated, lied or stole in order to benefit himself.”*

“Great idea! Everyone cheats at some point. No can be in that high position for such a long time and be COMPLETELY clean!”

They hire the best accountants to look through all the copious records searching for something . . . anything to bring some charge against this man. BUT after a comprehensive search . . . NOTHING. **Not even a dust ball of wrong doing.**

The Get Daniel Group reconvenes. One suggests, *“Daniel has worked with many many people. He has had assistants and secretaries and managers who worked with him through the years. Many have watched his life and his work*

closely. Everyone has skeletons in their closet. Surely, someone can tell a story about Daniel that would ruin his career."

"Great idea! Let us hire researchers who will interview anyone and everyone to find some dirt on this man!"

Yet despite hours of interviews from hundreds of people, not one person had even one credible complaint to make against Daniel.

The Get Daniel Group again gathers. This time one says, *"Guys, it is clear by now that we are not going to find ANY act or relationship to criticize or condemn Daniel in the way he does business. There is only one way we can get him. We all KNOW that Daniel's first allegiance is to his God. If we can find some way that our laws contradict the laws of Daniel's God THEN we can make a case. Because WE KNOW that if Daniel has to choose between obeying His God and obeying our laws . . . Daniel will choose loyalty to His God every single time."*

One man's face beams with a wicked smile. He says, *"I have an idea! Our King Darius loves to be honored among his realm. If we go to him suggesting a new law . . . a law that makes it illegal to pray to any person or deity or image for the next 30 days EXCEPT to make prayers to him . . . I think he would agree to it! Ha. And let us make sure that the penalty for disobeying this law is severe!"*

Another in the group raises his hand, *"Let us ask for the penalty for those breaking this law to be thrown into the lion's den!!"*

In unison they shout, *"Yes! Yes! This will work."*

One of the members writes the proposal on a legal paper and the next morning the Get Daniel Group marches to the see King Darius. When they arrive they all bow down to him and shout, *"Long live the King!!"* Then they say to him, *"King Darius, we love you and want you to be given the respect and esteem you deserve in this new part of your kingdom. We have ALL agreed upon the goodness of a new law that we believe will help the people to honor and obey you."*

King Darius says, *"I like it already! What do you propose?"*

Well, they explain the new law and the consequence to him and ask, *"What do you think? We have drafted an official copy of this law and it is ready for you to sign right now. Once you sign it, the law will be in place today and it won't be able to be changed or revoked. You will be given the honor that is due to one so mighty and so magnificent as you!"*

King Darius is overjoyed that these high officials would take such care for his honor! With joy, he takes up his quill and in a happy flourish signs the new law into effect right there!

The Get Daniel Group leave with happy but very dark hearts over what they had just done! One says, *“We all know that Daniel has a habit of opening his windows to pray to his God three times every day. Let us announce this law so that everyone will be accountable to it. Then we simply have to watch Daniel’s house. This is going to be so easy!!”*

The law hits Daniel’s desk at the official palace and he reads it. His heart sinks as he takes in the meaning of the law. He knows what it means the lion’s den if he prays to the LORD. He bows his head right there: *“Lord, you are my sun and my shield. You bestow favor and honor. No good thing do You withhold from those who walk uprightly. Give me strength to be faithful to You.” (Psalm 84:11)* Daniel, does not need to pray to ask the LORD for direction, he already KNOWS that he must disobey a human law that forbids him to pray to His LORD. He immediately gathers up some of his papers and walks home. It is noonday . . . one of the three times in the day that Daniel has set aside to pray to the LORD. He has done this for 66 years while living in Babylon and today is not going to be any different. As is his habit, Daniel walks upstairs to his prayer room. He opens wide the windows and feels the warm breeze brush his face and listens to the noise of the people walking and talking on the street below. And Daniel ASKS GOD FOR HELP. This is a trial too great for him. He needs the LORD’s strength.

“Real true faith is man’s weakness leaning on God’s strength.” D. L. Moody.

When Daniel prays, he positions his face westward toward Jerusalem. Though he has not seen the LORD’s sacred city for 66 years, the city remains in his heart. He knows that the LORD created this city and loves Jerusalem. He knows that though Jerusalem lies in ruins, the LORD is not through with this city. He knows that God prophesied a future day for Jerusalem when the LORD Himself will come to her after a 70-year captivity in Babylon. On that future day Jerusalem’s righteousness will shine like the dawn of a new day and Jerusalem’s salvation will blaze like a fiery torch. (Cf Is 40:9-10; 62:1; 65:18-19) Daniel believes what Jeremiah and Isaiah and Ezekiel have prophesied about this city.

*Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and **Jerusalem will dwell securely**. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’” (Jeremiah 33:14-16 [ESV](#))*

And Daniel waits for that day with hope by facing Jerusalem when he prays. With gentleness I observe that Bible prophecy regarding Jerusalem was not a tertiary matter to him.

Well, the Get Daniel Group easily sees Daniel opening his window, facing Jerusalem and praying to the God who covenanted with Israel. They run to King Darius' palace. *"King, King! Did you not sign a law that no one in your kingdom shall pray to any god or person except to you, O great Majestic One? And did you not decree by law that anyone who prays to any other god for the next 30 days shall be thrown into the lion's den?"*

The king is a bit perplexed by their breathless communication to him. *"Well, yes. Yes I did sign such a law. My decision stands. And you know that even if I wanted to revoke it, the official law of the Medes and Persians cannot be set aside for any cause."*

The Get Daniel Group act sorrowful while inwardly dancing with glee. *"Well, King, there is someone who has already broken your law. The man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, he is ignoring you and your law. He STILL prays to his God three times a day!"*

Immediately, King Darius' heart falls. He dismisses the Get Daniel Group from his presence and paces the floor . . . trying to come up with some solution . . . some way to spare Daniel from the lion's den. He wrings his hands muttering, "Why did I sign this law into effect? How could I have not seen this coming?" As he spins this terrible dilemma in his mind, he realizes that the Get Daniel Group has played him.

He thinks, *"Those rascals did not really care about my honor at all! They were just flattering me for their evil purposes. This idea of this law was not to advance my honor but to advance their honor by getting rid of the one person I trust! I am so angry I could spit. And Daniel! Oh. I have grown to love that guy. He is the one guy around me who actually cares about me and the good of my administration."* By the end of the day, King Darius has not found any way to get around his own irrevocable law.

The Get Daniel Group arrives in the evening. They can hardly disguise their happiness over the success of their scheme. *"Your Majesty, you know that according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, no law that the king signs can be changed."* Darius growls, "Yes. Of course I know that!"

At last, Darius gives orders to his soldiers to arrest Daniel and to be thrown into the den of lions. Wiersbe describes the lions' den, *"The lions' den was a large pit divided by a moveable wall that could be pulled up to allow the lions to*

go from one side to the other. The keeper would put food in the empty side and lift up the wall so the lions would [Daniel, p. 96] cross over and eat. He would quickly lower the wall and clean the safe side of the pit. The animals weren't fed often or great amounts of food so that their appetites would be keen in case there was to be an execution."

When the soldiers take Daniel to the lion's den late at night, they are shocked to see King Darius standing there to meet them. He wants to talk with his beloved advisor. *"Daniel, if there were any way . . . "*

Daniel smiles as if to assure the king that he understands why Darius must throw him into the lion's pit. With a tear streaming down his face, Darius says, *"May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you."* Darius watches as the soldiers lower Daniel down into the den below. A huge stone is rolled over the mouth of the den, and the king seals the stone with his own royal seal so that everyone knows not to try to rescue Daniel from the pit.

Daniel hears the lions move about in the dark. But then he sees a light shining in the darkness. He looks and there is a figure . . . like an angel . . . so beautiful . . . so powerful! **Daniel is reminded of the story his three friends told him long ago about a shining fourth person who walked with them in the fiery furnace.** Whether this is the same Person . . . either an angel or God Himself . . . we do not know. But this angel speaks to the lions and they lie in calm repose. Though Daniel can hear their stomach growl with hunger, the lions are as docile as house cats! The night is late and Daniel is tired. He finds a lump of dirt upon which to lay his head and he drifts off into a deep refreshing sleep! **How the LORD loves to calm our fears and to give sleep in the face of dangers and threats.**

While Daniel sleeps in the lion's den, the king paces with worry in the palace. How the LORD loves to give His children sleep, even in the face of danger and troubles! The king does not sleep or eat or have any of his usual entertainment. He is miserable thinking about Daniel being eaten by the lions. Very early just as the sun begins its first glimpse on the horizon, the king races out to the lion's den and calls out in great anguish, *"Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?"*

The king waits for a response, doubting that any will come. He hears some stirring and then Daniel in a well-rested voice shouts up to the king, *"Long live the king! 22 My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would*

not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty.”

Daniel is alive! The king is overjoyed! He orders Daniel lifted out of the den. He embraces Daniel and looks him over . . . not even a scratch from a lion’s paw is upon him! He has seen many thrown to the lions and everyone has been devoured. This is a miracle! He knows that Daniel’s God has protected Daniel.

Now the king turns his thoughts to the Get Daniel Group. He becomes enraged that they would use him in such a way. He orders them all to be arrested with their wives and children. He has them and their families thrown into the lion’s den. And when they were thrown into the den, the LORD unloosed the mouths of the lions and they leapt upon every soul before they even hit the floor of the den.

King Darius sends a message to every part of the known world . . . to the people of every ethnicity, every nation, every language.

““Peace and prosperity to you!

“I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end. He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

And so Daniel prospered all through the reign of King Darius the Mede.

Main Idea: Worship of the one true and living God is the ultimate goal of every life. The world will seek to disrupt our worship so we must ready our hearts to worship God when threat, dangers and trials strike us.

If you are a follower of Jesus, worship is ultimate. Worship becomes our new identity.

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9 [ESV](#))

Question: How can I be ready to worship the LORD when the world presses me to deny Him? This morning we consider . . .

The Preparation a Worshipper Makes

The Problems a Worshipper Expects
The Practice a Worshipper Applies
The Protection a Worshipper Receives
The Preparation a Worshipper Makes

The Preparation a Worshipper Makes

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”” (John 4:23-24 [ESV](#))

The Father seeks such worshippers because they are so very few. By nature, our lives spiral away from the LORD. We put ourselves ahead of God. **Worship is not the concern of our flesh. Worship is not the focus of our world.** Though God creates us with the chief purpose of worship, our sin nature resists true worship. **We need God’s grace to work in us!**

If we are to be worshippers of the living God, we must prepare for this kind of **radical living by placing God at the center of every part of our life . . .** our hopes, our friendships, our work, our finances, our hobbies, our pleasures, our decisions, our values. Much like an athlete who is training for the Olympics, this kind of preparation for a life of worship is a daily discipline.

Think of Daniel. Every day Daniel set aside three different times to talk with the LORD in prayer. And what do you suppose Daniel talked to the LORD about in his prayer times? Praise. Thanksgiving. Confession. Intercession for others. Requesting God’s blessing and favor. Many many matters. But I believe much of his time is spent simply asking the LORD for daily grace to strengthen his obedience. I think he is praying, *“Lord, your will be done in my life. Please help me to overcome the temptations that Satan sets in front of me. Lord, deliver me from evil. Give me grace to obey you every moment in every situation.”* **I believe many fail to have a life of worship because they do not make the preparations necessary to live it.**

A worshipper is not one who attends a worship service and then walks out to live his/her life. Worship IS life for a worshipper. God becomes the center of every decision. Obedience to God becomes the compass for thoughts, relationships and choices. Praise to the LORD becomes the main goal for every day.

How was Daniel able to worship God when he was tested with the threat of being eaten alive by lions?

Two preparations that Daniel makes to establish worship as the priority of his life:

First, Daniel chooses to believe in the LORD. As a young man, Daniel is transformed by God's grace. **Most in his nation are spiritually dead, but Daniel is alive to God.** Daniel believes in the LORD alone as the Most High God. He believes that the LORD alone holds the keys to life and death, to blessing and cursing, to resurrection and eternal reward.

Even when the LORD ordains for Daniel to be deported from his home to Babylon, Daniel does not flinch in his faith, but he sets his eyes of faith more deeply upon the LORD.

Second, Daniel decides that his faith is going to be an obedient faith. His faith mattered in his every day life in deep and profound ways. He believed that while the path of obedience is often hard, it is the only path that leads to God's blessing and life. **Daniel lived his life believing that the LORD is good and that His commandments are right.**

"But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank." (Daniel 1:8 [ESV](#))

66 years later . . .

*Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, **because an excellent spirit was in him** . . . 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.**" (Daniel 6:3, 5 [ESV](#))*

Question: Have you made the same preparation for worship Daniel did in your life?

First, have you chosen to believe in the LORD? To trust that He is the One True and Living God who alone can provide you with eternal life? This is the first step toward a life of worship.

The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." (John 3:35-36 [ESV](#))

Second, having made the decision to follow Jesus, do you possess an obedient faith?

From the moment that you decide to follow Jesus, Satan will follow you to knock you off the path of an obedient faith. My observation is that while some make an abrupt U Turn and radically decide to walk away from the worship of God, most who turn away from a life of worship do so gradually. They make a small step of compromise . . . a little act of disobedience . . . a choice so small that it seems inconsequential at the time.

Illustration: I picture the life of faith as a car traveling straight north toward the upward destination. But then a sign gets our attention. We become curious and then enticed. Off ramp on the highway is so gradual. Just a few degrees off of the highway. When we take it, it hardly feels like we left the highway. Yet the off ramp keeps turning and turning. And before you know it, your vehicle is no longer going north, but south.

Are you facing any off ramps where you are tempted to a small act of disobedience, impurity or compromise? Friends, prepare for a life of worship through a constant feeding of your faith!

The Problems a Worshipper Expects

One lie the devil uses to damage or destroy faith in God is the lie that if you believe in God, your life will be smooth and filled with all the blessings you desire. The idea is that you give God obedience and then the LORD will reward you by keeping you from troubles. The prosperity Gospel has led to more spiritual ruin than perhaps any other false doctrine.

Jesus tells us plainly what to expect if we choose to be worshippers.

"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 [ESV](#))

"Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you." (1 John 3:13 [ESV](#))

Two kinds of pressure we can expect the world to place upon us:

1. **Pressure to do what we must not do.** Illustration: Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego.
2. **Pressure to not do what we must do.** This is Daniel's dilemma. And it is actually more tempting to compromise here. Daniel could have so easily reasoned, "Only 30 days." Or "Just close my windows and keep this quiet."

Daniel is not surprised when the decree is made and he is arrested to be thrown to the lions. His faith is not shaken. He does not shout, "Lord, why me? How could you do something like this after a life of obedience to you?" He expects that troubles will come to him as the result of his loyalty to the LORD.

Truth: One of the great errors worshippers make is expecting the temporal life to go well with us because we are faithful to the LORD.

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. **For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.** So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NIV)*

Recent funeral for Al Dremann. These verses special to him in his battle with cancer and as he faced the prospect of physical death and separation from his wife, children and grandchildren. Declaration: We do not lose heart! Why? Because we know what God promises and what He tells us to expect. We know what God is doing BY MEANS OF OUR PRESENT TROUBLES!

The Practice a Worshipper Applies

When Daniel learns of the new law and the penalty of death by lions for disobeying it, he does not flinch. He gathers up his papers like he did every day at noon. Walks to his house. Goes upstairs and opens the window. He faces Jerusalem and he prays. I love the words in verse 10 "Just like he had done before". The world is changing, but God does not change and neither does Daniel's worship.

While this day likely FELT different, Daniel did not wrestle with WHAT he should do in this situation. He already knew what to do even before the law was written.

Truth: A worshipper looks up to determine what he/she does here below. We make our practice to live life before an audience of One.

Illustration: First Grade lunch.

Application: Let us not be content with a secret life of following Jesus. Let us let others know that God is worthy of worship.

Note Daniel does not appear to have this kind of existential crises very often. We know he had it when he was a teen. We know his friends had it when they were commanded to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's statue.

Point: Though worshippers seldom face this decision of absolute devotion, we make this decision every day.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26 [ESV](#))

Illustration: Secret service agents made decision to put their bodies between Pres. Trump and the assassin. When did they make that decision? One one hand . . . right then on the spot. On the other hand, when they swore an oath to defend the president with their lives.

The Protection a Worshipper Receives

Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me," (Daniel 6:21-22a [ESV](#))

God protects those who worship Him. He takes delight in His faithful ones and keeps them by His great power.

Have you ever spent a sleepless night on a bed of worry? How miserable the condition! If there ever were a man who had an excuse to pace the floor with anxious thoughts, it is Daniel during his campout with hungry lions. Yet Daniel reposes in peace. The king however paces the marble floor with a heart heavy with concern. **Better to be a beloved child in a lion's den than powerful king in a**

secure palace! Our lions may be disease, divorce, debt, or diverse disasters. When we know the LORD's love and power, we can sleep even though lions are near. *"In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety."* (Psalm 4:8 [ESV](#))

Friends, let us not be afraid of the devil and his schemes to destroy us.

"Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4 [ESV](#))

Let us not be afraid of the world who hates us.

"For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." (1 John 5:4 [ESV](#))

Let us not be afraid of death itself that stalks us.

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:54-57 [ESV](#))

God's protection often delivers us FROM the lion's den and sometimes THROUGH the lion's den. But God always delivers His own!

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect." (Hebrews 11:32-40 [ESV](#))

Daniel's faith did not rest upon the LORD's closing the mouths of the lions. His faith rested on the God who rewards those who trust in Him.

God calls some to worship Him by living. God calls others to worship Him by dying. The question is, "Will I worship Him?" In life or in death the LORD is worthy of our praise.

The Praise a Worshipper Arouses

Truth: People who worship the LORD influence others to worship the LORD.

"Daniel 6:26 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.

Daniel 6:27 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."

(Daniel 6:26-27 [ESV](#))

Application: Pray that the LORD would use your worship of Him to arouse praise to God from others.

Conclusion: A word about future judgment. The part of the story that we do not like to dwell upon is the part where the Get Daniel Group are thrown into the lion's den with their families. The judgment of Darius seems harsh. But this is the sentence Darius made against those who despised his honor.

The LORD is a King who cares about His honor. He promises judgment . . . far worse to all who defy Him. He invites all to receive His grace, but judgment to all who resist him.

28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:28-31 [ESV](#))