

“Who Hath Delivered Daniel”

Daniel 6:1-28

This is one of the most familiar episodes in the Bible – Daniel in the Lion's Den. However, as is the case in many other recorded events that we know from the Bible, there is much more here than just that Daniel was delivered from lions. There is a great deal we can learn from Daniel in this episode of his life that will allow us to grow in our Christian faith, and our walk with the Lord: for one, we find illustrations to show that God honors those that are faithful to Him, and those that don't give in and compromise their beliefs for the sake of their own security. Many today will compromise what they believe in and what they've held to, as servants of God, for the sake of their own financial security. Many churches today have given in to the will of the people in order to keep the offering plates full. This story, as well as the story about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, show that we don't have to compromise, and, in fact, there is great honor from God if we don't.

I. THE PROMOTION OF DANIEL – VS. 1-3

A. Vs. 1 – when Darius came to power it is said here that he set "over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes" – rulers that would stand in his place in the various parts of the extent kingdom.

B. Vs. 2 – over these 120, 3 "presidents" were set – and of those 3, Daniel was "first" – he was in authority over all – the only one greater in the kingdom at that point was Darius.

C. The reason this was so, it would appear, is because of Belshazzar making him third in the kingdom before he was overthrown. This was common practice by the Medes and Persians when they conquered a land. They would take those in authority and use them in places of authority to keep a measure of sameness and order during the transition.

D. Vs. 3 shows the blessing of God upon Daniel for his faithful service to the Lord throughout his life, as well as for his faithful service to Daniel's rulers. Remember what Daniel had said on numerous occasions recorded for us in the Bible that God puts those in authority over man whom He will and as such, we are obligated to obey those men as long as it does not violate the Word of God.

Daniel 2:20-22

²⁰ Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

²¹ And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

²² He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

Daniel 4:25

²⁵ That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know

that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

Daniel 5:23

²³ But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

II. THE PROBLEM THEY HAD WITH DANIEL – VS. 4-9

A. Vs. 4a – the 2 other presidents and the 120 princes, out of jealousy and hatred, decided they were going to find a way to get Daniel removed from power.

B. Vs. 4b – one of the most remarkable things said in the Bible about a servant of God in his relationship with other men and those in authority – "but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him."

1 Samuel 18:14

¹⁴ And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.

1 Samuel 19:4-5

⁴ And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good:

5 For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?

Philippians 2:14-16

14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

1 Peter 2:11-12

11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Peter 3:14-16

14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

1 Peter 4:14-16

¹⁴ If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

¹⁶ Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

C. Vs. 5 reiterates what vs. 4 says and adds to it the way the enemies of Daniel found to cause what they thought would be the downfall of Daniel, and his destruction – "except we find it against him concerning the law of his God" – Daniel obeyed the law of God (all of the law of God that he could obey while in captivity).

D. Vs. 6-9 give the details of what they came up with to trap Daniel.

1. It had to do with Daniel's prayer life
2. Question – would our prayer life be so open and known as to be able to be used against us if someone wanted to?

III. THE PERSISTENCE OF DANIEL – VS. 10-11

A. Vs. 10 – "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house" – Daniel would have been there when the king signed the decree, considering his position in the kingdom,

and yet, knowing what the punishment, he went home and continued doing what he had always done – prayed "as he did aforetime."

B. He was very specific and deliberate in what he did, and he was not ashamed of doing so.

1. "His windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem"
 - a) He never forgot where he came from and he knew that the 70 years of captivity were about up, and that God would be faithful to His Word in returning the Israelites to their land.
 - b) There is a reason he prayed in this manner found in Solomon's prayer and dedication of the Temple in 1 Kings 8.

1 Kings 8:30

30 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.

1 Kings 8:38–40

38 What prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house:

39 Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)

40 That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.

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1 Kings 8:44

44 If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house that I have built for thy name:

1 Kings 8:48–50

48 And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their

fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name:

49 Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause,

50 And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:

Psalm 5:7

7 But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

Jonah 2:4

4 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

Hebrews 4:16

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

2. "He kneeled upon his knees" – it's not commanded in the Bible that we have to kneel (although there are numerous occasions where God's servants knelt to pray) – this is what Daniel did as a testimony to the God of heaven.

1 Kings 8:54

54 And it was so, that when Solomon had

made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

2 Chronicles 6:13

¹³ For Solomon had made a brasen scaffold, of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven,

Ezra 9:5

⁵ And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God,

Psalms 95:6

⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

Luke 22:41

⁴¹ And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

Acts 9:40

⁴⁰ But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Acts 20:36

³⁶ And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.

Acts 21:5

⁵ And when we had accomplished those days,

we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed.

Ephesians 3:14

¹⁴ For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

C. "Three times a day" – again, not commanded we need to pray three times a day, but it isn't a bad idea by any means.

Psalm 55:17

¹⁷ Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

D. "And prayed, and gave thanks before his God"

1. "Prayed" – he simply brought his petitions to the God of heaven that he served, knowing that it was from Him that Daniel had the strength to make it through each day.
2. "Gave thanks" – imagine, he had been doing this since he was taken captive, some 70 years earlier – giving thanks for what he had even in captivity.

Psalm 34:1

¹ I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Philippians 4:6

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Colossians 3:17

¹⁷ And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.

¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Hebrews 13:15

¹⁵ By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

E. Vs. 11 shows Daniel's persistency and even though it was seemingly costly to him (he didn't know how he would end up – alive or with the Lord) he still stayed true to the Lord.

1. "Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying" – it's doubtful they had any question that they would find him there since that's where he had been for 70 years at that time of day.
2. "And making supplication before his God" – the word for "supplication" here is one that means to ask for mercy – Daniel was seeking help and mercy to help in the difficult circumstances he faced.

IV. THE PREDICAMENT OF THE KING OVER DANIEL – vs. 12-15

A. Vs. 12 finds the king faced with those that wanted Daniel out of the way and the trap they had set up for him was

about to be sprung.

B. Vs. 13 gives us an insight into why they hated Daniel so much, and what they were willing to do to remove him.

1. "That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah" – their main point was that he was a Jew, and even after almost 70 years, the Jews were still hated by some in Babylon, especially those that had authority.
2. They said of Daniel that "he regardeth not" the king – that was a lie – Daniel had been, all those years, a firm supporter of all those he served.

C. Vs. 14 shows that Darius was very disturbed that he had been deceived by these men, and he set out to find a way to stop the execution – this, in itself, shows that what Daniel had been accused of was not true but there wasn't much that could be done about it.

D. Vs. 15 points out the permanency of the Laws of the Medes and the Persians – once established it could not be changed.

E. The king found himself in a predicament out of which only the God of Daniel could get him.

V. THE PROCLAMATION CONCERNING DANIEL – VS. 16-17

A. Vs. 16 – Daniel is "cast" into the lion's den at the command of the king, but

before doing so he demonstrates confidence in the God of Daniel because of the testimony Daniel had given of his God down through the years, and because of the testimony that would have been given of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego's deliverance from the burning fiery furnace (Psalm 91:1-16).

Psalm 37:39-40

³⁹ But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.

⁴⁰ And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

- B. There is a phrase in vs. 16 which is repeated in vs. 20 that gives Daniel's testimony before all those he served, and that is that he served God "continually" (without fail) – there was never a time in his life where anyone could say he did not serve God.**
- C. Vs. 17 – the king sealed the stone over the mouth of the den of lions "that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel" – that no one would be able to let him out – it was up to God to deliver him, and that's the way God intended it to be, so that no one could take credit for the miracle that was about to happen.**
- D. It is hard to determine what the lion's den looked like, but the word for "den" simply means a pit, as cut out of the earth. It was evidently designed for executions because of the use of the**

stone to cover the mouth (entrance) of it. It is said that they would starve the lions before an execution so as to make the death all that more violent.

VI. THE PROTECTION OF DANIEL – vs. 18-24

A. Vs. 18 – pondered by the king

1. He spent the night "fasting" – it doesn't say he prayed, but it is likely he did – at this point there is no indication that Darius had much affinity for the God of Daniel other than that he saw something in Daniel that would have had him consider the God of heaven to be greater than other gods.
2. There was no music played for him, nothing to help him sleep – in fact, he didn't sleep all night because of what had happened to Daniel.

B. Vs. 19-20 – pleading by the king

1. Vs. 19 – the king rose early – most likely at the earliest of light – and went to see what happened with Daniel.
2. Vs. 20 – Darius is seen pleading with a "lamentable voice" for Daniel to answer him – for Daniel to be alive – the only hope Darius had that this would be the case was that he knew Daniel believed God was able to do this, and if Daniel did then he could as well.

C. Vs. 21-22 – pronounced by Daniel

1. He let the king know, in answer to the

pleading by the king for a word from him, that he was alive and well.

2. Vs. 22 – "My God hath sent his angel" – who this angel is it does not say – it could have been the Son of God (called "the angel of the Lord" at times in the Old Testament) or it could have just been a normal, everyday, angel (like the one that killed 185,000 Assyrians – 2 Kings 19:35; Is. 37:36).
3. The reason for Daniel's deliverance is given in vs. 22 as being two-fold:
 - a) "Before him (God) innocency was found in me" – if there had not been this found in him he would most likely have been eaten by the lions;

Psalm 18:19–24

19 He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

20 The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.

21 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

22 For all his judgments were before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me.

23 I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.

24 Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness,

according to the cleanness of my hands
in his eyesight.

Psalm 84:11

11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield:
the LORD will give grace and glory; no
good thing will he withhold from them
that walk uprightly.

(Paul before Felix)

Acts 24:16

16 And herein do I exercise myself, to
have always a conscience void of offence
toward God, and toward men.

2 Corinthians 1:12

12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony
of our conscience, that in simplicity and
godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom,
but by the grace of God, we have had our
conversation in the world, and more
abundantly to you-ward.

- b) "And also before thee, O king, have I done
no hurt" – he was not only faithful to his
God, but he was faithful to his king – points
to the need we have to be obedient to those
in authority over us.

Genesis 40:14–15

14 But think on me when it shall be well
with thee, and shew kindness, I pray
thee, unto me, and make mention of me
unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this
house:

15 For indeed I was stolen away out of the
land of the Hebrews: and here also have
I done nothing that they should put me
into the dungeon.

1 Samuel 24:9-11

9 And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt?

10 Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed.

11 Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

Acts 25:8-11

8 While he answered for himself, Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all.

9 But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me?

10 Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest.

11 For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar.

D. Vs. 23-24 – produced results

1. Vs. 23 – the king was "exceeding glad" and commanded Daniel be brought out of the lion's den.
2. Vs. 24 – the men that set the whole thing up were thrown, along with their families, into the lion's den – God will have His vengeance.

Romans 12:19

¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Deuteronomy 32:25

²⁵ The sword without, and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs.

Psalms 94:1-3

¹ O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself.

² Lift up thyself, thou judge of the earth: render a reward to the proud.

³ LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph?

Nahum 1:2-3

² God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

³ The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of

his feet.

Hebrews 10:30

³⁰ For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

VII. THE PRAISE FOR DANIEL'S GOD – VS. 25-28

A. Vs. 25 – King Darius sent a proclamation to all those under his rule – "all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth" – that is, all the earth that he ruled.

B. Vs. 26-27 – the decree Darius gave concerning the God of Daniel was very similar to the decree Nebuchadnezzar gave regarding Him.

1. A point is made here that will help us understand when the Bible tells us to fear God – "That...men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel" – this isn't a reverential "awe" of Who God is, but rather this is describing a real fear for what God can do (just as He did to those that came against Daniel, and how He preserved Daniel in the lion's den).

Psalm 99:1-3

¹ The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.

² The LORD is great in Zion; and he is high above all the people.

³ Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.

Jeremiah 10:10

¹⁰ But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

Hebrews 12:28-29

²⁸ Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

2. "For he is the living God" – no other god is seen as that in the Bible, nor in any ancient literature of the gods of the time period.
3. "And stedfast for ever, and his kingdom shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end" – Darius, a pagan leader to this point, recognized the eternity of God, and His faithfulness.
4. Vs. 27 – demonstrates the power of God to show, in supernatural ways, that He is in control of all that happens.

C. Vs. 28 – Daniel continued to be blessed of God under Darius, and Cyrus the Persian.

Conclusion: This story, if it does nothing else, should demonstrate to us the benefit of being faithful to the Lord, and obeying His Word. Daniel was protected because of his faithfulness, and the same God that Daniel had is the same God that we have.