

*"In telling Israel this story of God's saving Daniel from the lions, the author had primarily two purposes in mind. First, he wanted to encourage Israel in exile to remain faithful to God's law even as Daniel in exile had remained faithful to God's law. The same application holds for us today. When there is a conflict between the law of the land and the law of God, we are to remain faithful to the law of God."*

*Sidney Greidanus - Preaching Christ from Daniel*

## *2. Worship must go beyond words*

***Worship is not just music, it's what we value most in life. God must be first, even if it costs us.***

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. <sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.

1 Peter 2:11-16

### Community Group Questions:

1. What is the most important takeaway in this text for you?
2. What are you doing now to prepare yourself for persecution?
3. If God can save everyone from trials like this one, why do you think he doesn't?
4. How does Daniel's situation parallel the story of Jesus?



**Daniel and the Lions Den**  
**The Living God Saves**

**Daniel 6**

Corbett Robertson - Sierra Community Church  
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<sup>1</sup> It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, <sup>2</sup> with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. <sup>3</sup> Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. <sup>4</sup> At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. <sup>5</sup> Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God." Daniel 6:1-5

***How important do you think Daniel's integrity is to this story? Does this teach us anything about God's view of integrity?***

<sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:14-16

<sup>14</sup>When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him. <sup>15</sup>Then the men went as a group to the king and said to him, "Remember, O king, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed." <sup>16</sup>So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"  
Daniel 6:14-16

***The story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and this story are very similar in their storyline. What are the differences between King Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 3 and King Darius here in chapter 6?***

## ***1. The Living God is able to save his people***

***Put yourself in the shoes of Daniel's audience. For the Israelites exiled in Babylon, there must have been some question about whether or not this was true. It probably seemed to many of them God wasn't able to save them or he would'nt have let them be taken to Babylon in the first place. But they're in exile because they abandoned God not the other way around.***

***Do you think this attitude is still present today?  
In the church?***

If you're wondering what Daniel might have prayed before he was sent to the lions den, ready Psalm 22, or 54 or 57.

The Psalms are there to help you cry out to God like many others have over the past few thousand years. Try praying one or more of them yourself this week.

<sup>19</sup>At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. <sup>20</sup>When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" <sup>21</sup>Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup>My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." <sup>23</sup>The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Daniel 6:19-23

***Who gets the credit? God does. God's greatness has been Daniel's emphasis since the very first chapter.***

<sup>26</sup>"I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. <sup>27</sup>He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

Daniel 6:26-27

***We don't know if Darius became a believer because of this. What we do know is God deserves the glory, and he's used two pagan kings already in this book to make that point.***