

EXILIC & POST-EXILIC PROPHETS OF THE BIBLE

Senior Adults & Friends Bible Study — Summit View Church of Christ
Winter 2022-2023

PART 6, SECTION 3

DANIEL AND THE LIONS' DEN

DANIEL 6

Date: 539-538 BC — No date is given for this story, but as it describes the establishment of Darius's government over Babylon (6:1-2), it appears to come from 539 or 538 BC, very early in the Persian Empire's control of Babylon.

TAKE THIS QUIZ BEFORE YOU READ THE STORY!

How well do you know the story of the Daniel and the lions' den? Answer these questions, then read Daniel 6 to check your answers.

- 1) What decree of the king did Daniel break, for which he was thrown into the lions' den?
- 2) How many times each day did Daniel pray to God? _____
- 3) When Daniel prayed each day, what important Jewish location did he face toward?
- 4) The king who ordered that Daniel be thrown into the lions' den was named _____.
- 5) Were there literal lions in the so-called "lions' den," or were the "lions" symbolic?
- 6) In the morning after Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, who was the first person to call to Daniel, asking if he was alive?
- 7) Who did Daniel say rescued him while he was in the lions' den?
- 8) Who in this story wanted Daniel dead?
- 9) Did anyone actually die in this story?
- 10) How long was Daniel in the lions' den?

Daniel 6:1-9

6:1 — King Darius appointed _____ satraps (provincial officials) to govern the kingdom. Over them were _____ administrators, of which Daniel was one.

6:5 — The jealous officials decided they would never be able to find fault with Daniel unless it had something to do with _____.

6:9 — What decree did the officials, hoping to get Daniel into trouble, persuade Darius to pass? And what was the penalty for violating this decree?

cultural backgrounds

"The lions' den was a pit with a relatively small opening at the top (see v. 17), making it impossible for a prisoner to escape." *NIV Archaeological Study Bible page 1396, note on Daniel 6:7*

Daniel 6:10-18

6:10 — What did Daniel do when he heard about the king's new decree?

biblical backgrounds

When King Solomon dedicated the original temple in about 959 BC, he said in prayer to God, "When they [your people] sin against you...and you become angry with them and give them over to their enemies, who take them captive to their own lands, far away or near...and if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies...and pray to you toward the land you gave their ancestors, toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name; then from heaven...hear their prayer and their plea, and uphold their cause. And forgive your people...." (1 Kings 8:46-50)

6:12-15 — Why do you think the king didn't cancel his decree, even though he knew the decree would likely cost Daniel his life?

6:18 — How did King Darius spend the night after Daniel was thrown into the lions' den?

Daniel 6:19-28

6:22 — How did Daniel survive his night in the lions' den?

6:22 — Daniel's name means, "God is my judge." How did God judge Daniel in this situation?

6:24 — What happened to the officials who had falsely accused Daniel?

cultural backgrounds

"After Daniel's release, those who had schemed against him were thrown to the same lions. This was in accord with the common principle in the ancient Near East that anyone who made a false charge against someone else should be punished by receiving the same fate they had sought for their victim (cf. Deut. 19:16-21). In line with the ruthless practice of the Persians, the sentence was also carried out on the families of the guilty men: their children, and their wives." [Similarly, notice Esther 9:24-25.] *ESV Study Bible page 1721, note on Daniel 6:24*

6:26 — What did Darius command his people to do in regard to Daniel's God?