

# DANIEL CHAPTER 6

## Chapter 6

6:1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

6:2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel [was] first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

6:3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit [was] in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

6:4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he [was] faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

6:5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find [it] against him concerning the law of his God.

6:6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

6:7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

6:8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

6:9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

6:11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

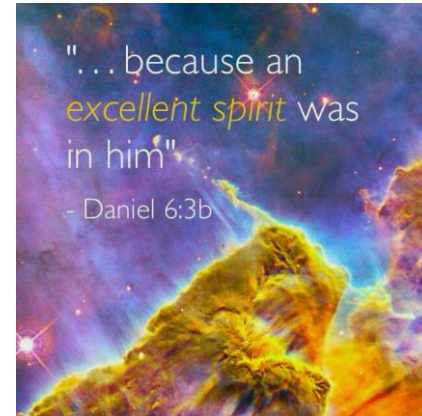
6:12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask [a petition] of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing [is] true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

6:13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which [is] of the children of the captivity of Judah,

## DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN

The Lord made Daniel and Joseph shrewd managers. He could work through them because they did not live to please their own inclination but to please God. {COL 350.4}

### VERSE 3



"The Lord is a great God, And a great King above all gods. . . . O come, let us worship and bow down: Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." Psalm 95:3-6. {PK 47.4}

Both in public and in private worship it is our privilege to bow on our knees before God when we offer our petitions to Him. Jesus, our example, "kneeled down, and prayed." Luke 22:41. Of his disciples it is recorded that they, too, "kneeled down, and prayed." Acts 9:40. Paul declared, "I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 3:14. In confessing before God the sins of Israel, Ezra knelt. See Ezra 9:5. **Daniel "kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God."** Daniel 6:10. {PK 48.1}

### VERSE 9



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regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

6:14 Then the king, when he heard [these] words, was sore displeased with himself, and set [his] heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

6:15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians [is], That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

6:16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast [him] into the den of lions. [Now] the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

6:17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

6:18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of music brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

6:19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

6:20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: [and] the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

6:21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever

6:22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

6:23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

6:24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast [them] into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

6:25 Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

### VERSE 16 & 17



### VERSE 19, 20



### VERSE 22





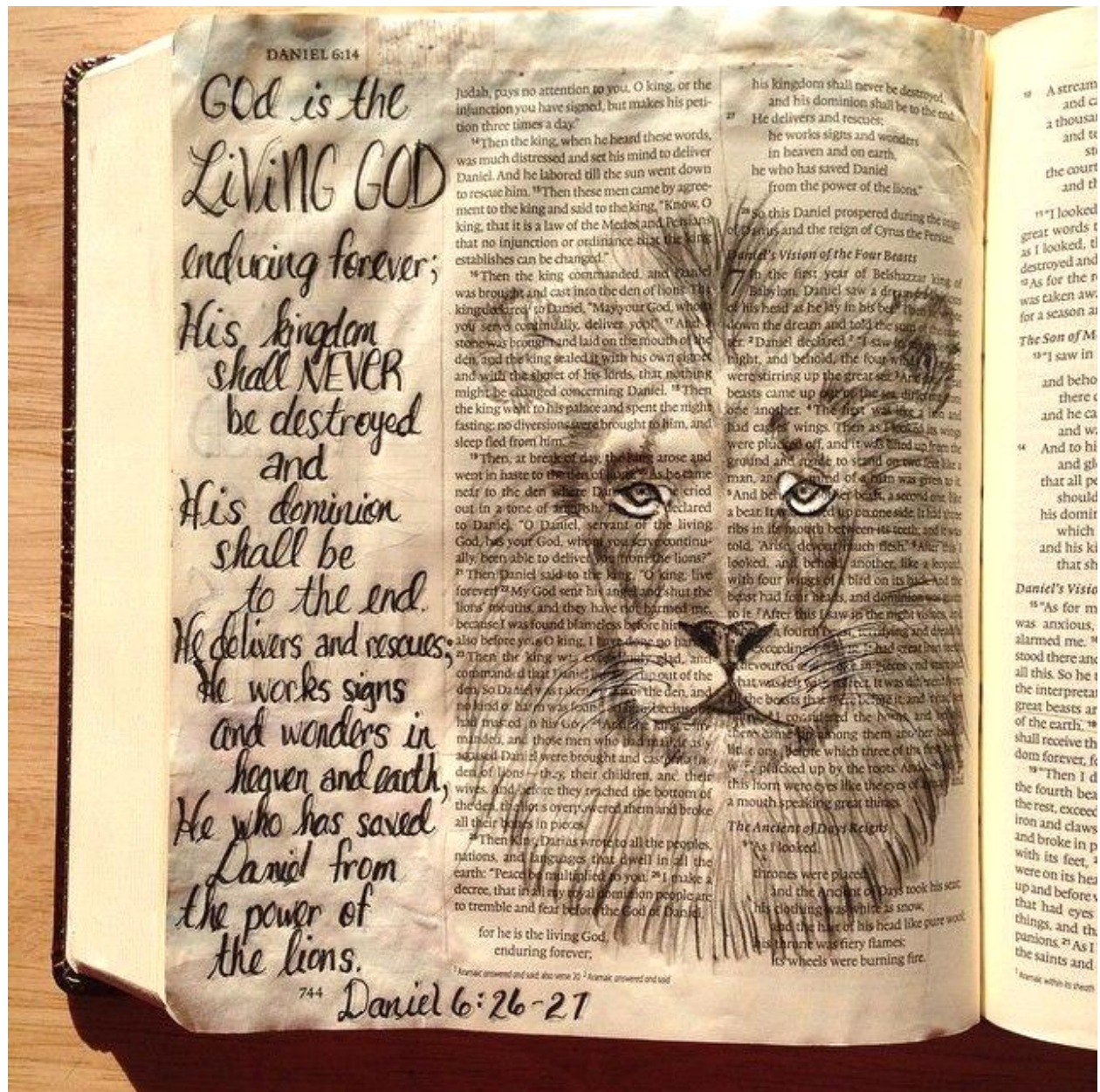
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6:26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he [is] the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom [that] which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion [shall be even] unto the end.

6:27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

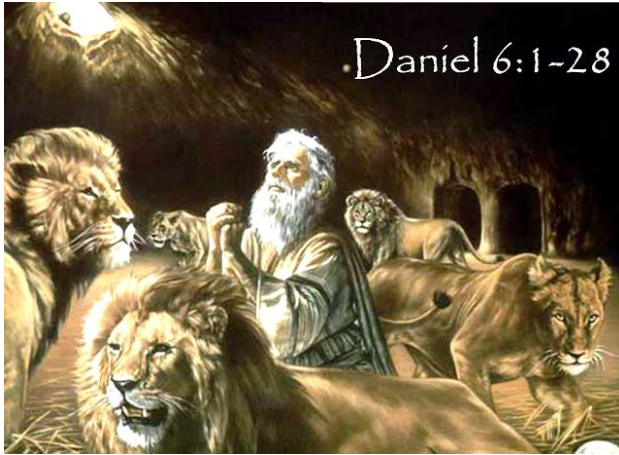
6:28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

no good thing will God withhold from those who walk with integrity.





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Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

Darius set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty princes over one hundred twenty provinces in the empire. Over these princes were set three presidents, and of these Daniel was chief, that is, prime minister. This raised the envy of the other rulers against him, and they made plans to destroy him. Finding him guiltless on all accounts, they conspired to accuse him in some way concerning the law of his God.



6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever. 7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. 8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. 9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree. 10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Daniel's enemies presented a decree to the king designed to increase honor and respect for his royalty. No prayer or petition, they declared, was to be addressed to any man or god, save the king, for thirty days. By this flattering approach, the princes hid their evil design against Daniel. The king signed the decree, and it became an unalterable law of the Medes and Persians. The real design of the decree meant that no petition could be asked of the God of the Hebrews. Had the king discerned this, he would not have signed it.

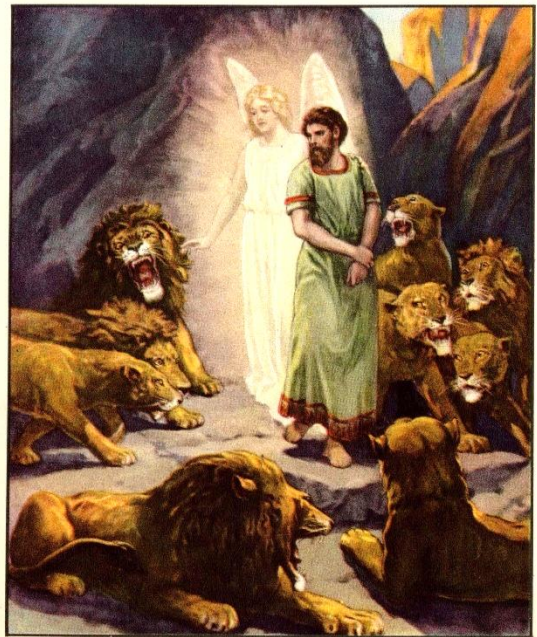
11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. 12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. 13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh

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his petition three times a day. 14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. 15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed. 16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. 17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

After the trap was set, they came to Daniel's residence and found him, just as they intended and hoped, praying to his God. They wasted no time in going to the king with this revelation. The king saw the trap that had been prepared for him as well as for Daniel and he labored until the going down of the sun to deliver him. But the conspirators would not relent. Daniel was at last thrown into the den of lions.

18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him. 19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. 20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? 21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. 22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. 23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel



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up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God. 24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

Here the king demonstrates his genuine interest in the prophet's behalf, and the severe condemnation he felt for his own course in the matter. At dawn he returned to the den of hungry and ravenous beasts. Because of his innocence, God, whom he served continually, had sent His angel and had shut the lions' mouths. Daniel's accusers had said the lions were not hungry, but the lions were hungry enough when not restrained by divine intervention, thus was Daniel vindicated.



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25 Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. 26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. 27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. 28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel's deliverance resulted in a proclamation being sent throughout the empire in favor of the true God. All men were commanded to fear (respect) and tremble (honor) before Him. There are two great lines of duty for those who follow God; refusal to yield to any known sin and refusal to deny any known duty. What is duty? The voice of duty is the voice of God.

**The voice of duty, in all things, is the voice of God**



[Luke 19:1- read.] {Ms8a-1891.1}

Brethren, our standard is altogether too low. We have had the precious gems, precious treasures upon earth, which have been unfolded, and we have seen the beauty and the glory of the truth, but we have made it a sort of common thing. {Ms8a-1891.2}

Christ presents many phases of character to God's people, and yet He says, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." [Revelation 2:4.] What is the matter? The gold the truth bids [you] seek, the gold of love and faith, is dropped out of the character, and now you must come back. {Ms8a-1891.3}

"Thy gentleness hath made me great." [Psalm 18:35.] The gentleness, forbearance, longsuffering, mercy, and patience have greater power than you imagine. God wants us to cultivate that side of the question. If justice and its twin sister mercy do not stand together, it is a terrible thing. You want the world and whatever you are connected with. ... {Ms8a-1891.4}

You need not be afraid of manifesting weakness of character in being too merciful. I will risk everyone of you, that you will not be too merciful, too compassionate, or too sympathetic for the erring. What we want is the Spirit of Christ interwoven into our everyday experience. You want it when you rise in the morning, you want it at noon, and you want it at night. You want it continually, **so that it shall be an abiding principle as with Daniel—the abiding principle of fearing God let the consequence be what it may.** {Ms8a-1891.5}

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Verse 5.- An Unenviable Position.--Daniel's position was not an enviable one. He stood at the head of a dishonest, prevaricating, godless cabinet, whose members watched him with keen, jealous eyes, to find some flaw in his conduct. They kept spies on his track, to see if they could not in this way find something against him. Satan suggested to these men a plan whereby they might get rid of Daniel. Use his religion as a means of condemning him, the enemy said (YI Nov. 1, 1900). {4BC 1171.3}

Verse 10. Undeviating Integrity Is Only Safe Course.--It may be a difficult matter for men in high positions to pursue the path of undeviating integrity whether they shall receive praise or censure. Yet this is the only safe course. All the rewards which they might gain by selling their honor would be only as the breath from polluted lips, as dross to be consumed in the fire. Those who have moral courage to stand in opposition to the vices and errors of their fellow men--it may be of those whom the world honor-- will receive hatred, insult, and abusive falsehood. They may be thrust down from their high position, because they would not be bought or sold, because they could not be induced by bribes or threats to stain their hands with iniquity. Everything on earth may seem to conspire against them; but God has set **His seal** upon His own work. They may be regarded by their fellow men as weak, unmanly, unfit to hold office; but how differently does the Most High regard them. Those who despise them are the really ignorant. **While the storms of calumny and reviling may pursue the man of integrity through life, and beat upon his grave, God has the "well done" prepared for him.** Folly and iniquity will at best yield only a life of unrest and discontent, and at its close a thorny dying pillow. And how many, as they view their course of action and its results, are led to end with their own hands their disgraceful career. And beyond all this waits the judgment, and the final, irrevocable doom, Depart (ST Feb. 2, 1882)! {4BC 1171.4}

The case of Daniel was presented before me. Although he was a man of like passions with ourselves, the pen of inspiration presents him as a faultless character. His life is given us as a bright example of what man may become, even in this life, if he will make God his strength and wisely improve the opportunities and privileges within his reach. Daniel was an intellectual giant; yet he was continually seeking for greater knowledge, for higher attainments. Other young men had the same advantages; but they did not, like him, bend all their energies to seek wisdom--the knowledge of God as revealed in His word and in His works. Although Daniel was one of the world's great men, he was not proud nor self-sufficient. **He felt the need of refreshing his soul with prayer, and each day found him in earnest supplication before God.** He would not be deprived of this privilege even when a den of lions was opened to receive him if he continued to pray. {4T 569.1}

**Daniel loved, feared, and obeyed God.** Yet he did not flee away from the world to avoid its corrupting influence. In the providence of God he was to be in the world yet **not of the world**. With all the temptations and fascinations of court life surrounding him, **he stood in the integrity of his soul, firm as a rock in his adherence to principle.** He made God his strength and was not forsaken of Him in his time of greatest need. {4T 569.2}

**Daniel was true, noble, and generous.** While he was anxious to be at peace with all men, he would not permit any power to turn him aside from the path of duty. He was willing to obey those who had rule over him, as far as he could do so consistently with truth and righteousness; but kings and decrees could not make him swerve from his allegiance to the King of kings. Daniel was but eighteen years old when brought into a heathen court in service to the king of Babylon, and because of his youth his noble resistance of wrong and his steadfast adherence to the right are the more admirable. **His noble example should bring strength to the tried and tempted, even at the present day.** {4T 570.1}

**A strict compliance with the Bible requirements will be a blessing, not only to the soul, but to the body.** The fruit of the Spirit is not only love, joy, and peace, but temperance also. We are enjoined not to defile our bodies, for they are the temples of the Holy Ghost. The case of Daniel shows us, that, through religious principle, **young men may triumph over the lust of the flesh and remain true to God's requirements**, even though it cost them a great sacrifice. What if he had made a **compromise** with those heathen officers, and had yielded to the pressure of the occasion by eating and drinking as was customary with the Babylonians? That one wrong step would probably have led to others, until, his connection with heaven being severed, he would have been borne away by temptation. But

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while he clung to God with unwavering trust, the spirit of prophetic power came upon him. While he was instructed of man in the duties of court life, he was taught of God to read the mysteries of future ages. {4T 570.2}

The Lord made Daniel and Joseph shrewd managers. He could work through them because they did not live to please their own inclination but to please God. {COL 350.4}

**The case of Daniel has a lesson for us.** It reveals the fact that a businessman is not necessarily a sharp, policy man. He can be instructed by God at every step. Daniel, while prime minister of the kingdom of Babylon, was a prophet of God, receiving the light of heavenly inspiration. **Worldly, ambitious statesmen are represented in the word of God as the grass that groweth up and as the flower of the grass that fadeth.** Yet the Lord desires to have in His service intelligent men, men qualified for various lines of work. There is need of businessmen who will weave the grand principles of truth into all their transactions. And their talents should be perfected by most thorough study and training. If men in any line of work need to improve their opportunities to become wise and efficient, it is those who are using their ability in building up the kingdom of God in our world. Of Daniel we learn that in all his business transactions, when subjected to the closest scrutiny, **not one fault or error could be found.** He was a sample of what every businessman may be. **His history shows what may be accomplished by one who consecrates the strength of brain and bone and muscle, of heart and life, to the service of God.** {COL 350.5}

### Chapter 6 Faithfulness Under Adversity!

#### **Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 89**

To their knowledge of the God of the Jews may be attributed the purity of their worship, for while they were heathens, they had never fallen into the gross forms of idolatry which were practiced by most of the nations of Western Asia.

#### **Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 89**

The Persians at the time of the overthrow of Babylon were physically strong and rugged, due in great measure to the simplicity of their habits and their temperance in eating. Such were the conditions which made it possible for the Medes and Persians to be the rod in the Lord's hand for the punishment of Babylon.

#### **Daniel 6:1-3**

#### **Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 90**

Daniel was not a stranger to the new government, for before the death of Belshazzar, he had lived at Shushan, in the province of Elam. To the fact of acquaintanceship, it may be added that the excellent spirit and unsurpassed business ability of Daniel brought him into prominence. Here is recorded the case of a man who was a devout follower of God, one whose honesty, accuracy, and skill in every particular were a wonder to the world. It is a powerful witness to the duties and privileges of every Christian business man.

#### **Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, 1897, pg. 107**

Preference was given to Daniel because of his excellent spirit. Daniel, who, for being a great man in the empire of Babylon, might have been esteemed an enemy by Darius, and so have been banished or otherwise put out of the way; or, being a captive from a nation then in ruins, might have been despised and set at naught, was not treated in either of these ways; but to the credit of Darius be it said, Daniel was preferred over all the others, because the discerning king saw in him an excellent spirit. And the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

#### **Daniel 6:4-9**



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## **Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, 1897, pg. 108**

Daniel foresaw the conspiracy going on against him, but took no means to thwart it. He simply committed himself to God, and left the issue to His providence. He did not leave the empire on pretended business, or perform his devotions with more than ordinary secrecy; but when he knew the writing was signed, just as aforetime, with his face turned toward his beloved Jerusalem, he kneeled down in his chamber three times a day, and poured out his prayers and supplications to God.

## **Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 89**

Daniel did not and could not deny his Saviour by concealing himself in some corner of his room to pray. He knelt by the open window, toward Jerusalem. He did not pray in his heart, silently, he prayed aloud, as had been his custom before the decree was issued. Noble and true is the one who has God ruling in his heart.

## **Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, 1897, pg. 109**

It only remained for these men, having set the trap, to watch their victim that they might ensnare him therein. So they again came tumultuously together, this time at the residence of Daniel, as though some important business had called them suddenly together to consult the chief of the presidents; and lo, they found him, just as they intended and hoped, praying to his God. So far all had worked well. They were not long in going to the king with the matter, and, to render it more sure, got an acknowledgment from the king that such a decree was in force.

## **Daniel 6:12-14**

### **Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 98**

Daniel and Darius met at the mouth of the lions' den, but there was not another man in the realm so fitted to go inside as this same Daniel. Pressing the hand of his esteemed minister, Darius said, "Thy God whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee."

### **Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 98, 99**

Satan exulted as he did years later when he saw the Son of God in the sepulcher, with a stone before the door, and the stone sealed with the Roman seal. But there was no more power to hold Daniel in the den of lions than to keep Christ in the grave. The angel came, not to the stone, but into the den, and one of the most precious times for Daniel was when he sat in the center of the cave, and those lions couched at his feet or fondly licked his hands. ... Daniel's heart was beating with the heart of God, and when he entered the den, the beasts were at peace with him. The unity of feeling is shown in the fact that an angel was visible, and Daniel talked face to face with the heavenly visitor.

## **Daniel 6:18**

### **Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, 1897, pg. 110**

The course of the king after Daniel had been cast into the den of lions attests his genuine interest in his behalf, and the severe condemnation he felt for his own course in the matter. At earliest dawn he repaired to the den where his prime minister had passed the night in the company with hungry and ravenous beasts.

### **Daniel 6:19-23**

### **Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, 1897, pg. 110**

Here, then, stood Daniel, preserved by a power higher than any power of earth. His cause was vindicated, his innocency declared. No hurt was found on him, because he believed in his God. Faith did it. A miracle had been wrought.

### **Daniel 6:24 Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, 1897, pg. 110, 111**

Why, then, were Daniel's accusers brought and cast in? It is conjectured that they attributed the preservation of Daniel, not to any miracle in his behalf, but to the fact that the lions chanced at that time not to be hungry. Then, said the king, they will no more attack you than him, so we will test the matter by putting you in. The lions were hungry enough when

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they could get hold of the guilty; and these men were torn to pieces ere they reached the bottom of the den. Thus was Daniel doubly vindicated; and thus strikingly were the words of Solomon fulfilled: "The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead." Proverbs 11:8.

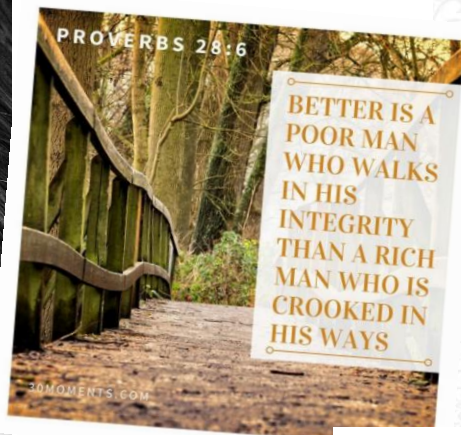
## Daniel 6:25

### Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, 1897, pg. 111

The result of Daniel's deliverance was that another proclamation went out through the empire in favor of the true God, the God of Israel. All men were to fear and tremble before Him. What Daniel's enemies designed to prove his ruin, resulted only in his advancement. In this case, and in the case of the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace, the seal of God is set in favor of two great lines of duty: (1) As in the case of the three in the fiery furnace, not to yield to any known sin; and (2) As in the present case, not to omit any known duty. **And from these instances, the people of God in all ages are to derive encouragement.**

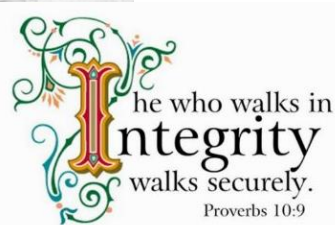
### Stephan N Haskell, The Story of Daniel, pg. 99, 100

Again the nations of the world saw the power of Israel's God to preserve His faithful people. Darius had his belief in God confirmed; and Cyrus had received a lesson he could not soon forget. It was a fresh token to the Israelites that God was in their midst to bless them. To Daniel came the voice of God promising patience and strength to perform his duties as a servant of God. Greater light came to Daniel, for it was after this experience that a large portion of the prophecies were given to him.



Let what you say  
be simply  
**'Yes' or 'No'**  
anything more than this  
comes from evil.

Matthew 5:37



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