The Living God and the Lions' Den

Daniel 6

1. The Foundation of our Faith: God lives, reigns and rescues

2. The Expression of our Faithfulness

3. The God who is faithful to the faithful

1 It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the
kingdom, 2 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. 3 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.

— *Daniel 6:1–3*

[4] 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. [5] 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 6:4–5*

[6] So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and
said: “May King Darius live forever! [7] The royal administrators, prefects,
satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue
an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or
human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty,
shall be thrown into the lions’ den. [8] Now, Your Majesty, issue the
decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance
with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” [9] So
King Darius put the decree in writing.

— Daniel 6:6–9

10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he
went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward
Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving
thanks to his God, just as he had done before. 11 Then these men went as
a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

— Daniel 6:10–11

12 So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?” The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” 13 Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.”

— *Daniel 6:12–13*

14 When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was
determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to
save him. 15 Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to
him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes
and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.” 16
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*

17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the
king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so
that Daniel's situation might not be changed. 18 Then the king returned to
his palace and spent the night without eating and without any
entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

— *Daniel 6:17–18*

19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den.
20 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?" 21 Daniel answered,
"May the king live forever!

— *Daniel 6:19–21*

22 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, Your Majesty.” 23 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 6:22–23*

24 At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

— *Daniel 6:24*

25 Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every
language in all the earth: “May you prosper greatly! 26 “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.

— *Daniel 6:25–26*

27 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.” 28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of
Cyrus the Persian.

— *Daniel 6:27–28*

1. The Foundation of our Faith: God lives, reigns and rescues

Darius's Decree

a. God lives
"For he is the living God and he endures forever" — Daniel 6:26

b. God reigns
"his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end" — Daniel 6:26

c. God rescues
"He rescues and he saves" — Daniel 6:27

2. The Expression of our Faithfulness

Daniel by the Window

a. We remind ourselves
"the windows opened toward Jerusalem" — Daniel 6:10

b. We submit
"he got down on his knees and prayed" — Daniel 6:10

c. We thank God
"giving thanks to his God" — Daniel 6:10

2. The Expression of our Faithfulness

Daniel by the Window — continued

d. We pray in habit
"Three times a day" — Daniel 6:10
e. We pray without compromise
"Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published" … "just as he had done before" — Daniel 6:10

f. We seek God for help
"praying and asking God for help" — Daniel 6:11

3. The God who is faithful to the faithful