

## Daniel 6 – Faithfulness Under Fire: Integrity in a Hostile World

### Introduction

Daniel 6 records one of the most familiar and powerful accounts in Scripture—the deliverance of Daniel from the lions’ den. This chapter demonstrates that God’s sovereignty rules over kings, laws, and empires, and that faithful obedience to God often invites opposition but results in divine vindication.

### Key Themes:

- God’s sovereignty over human governments and laws
  - Faithfulness and integrity in a hostile culture
  - Prayer as a lifelong discipline, not a crisis response
  - God’s power to deliver and vindicate His servants
  - Public testimony to the living God
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### Historical Background:

- The event occurs during the reign of **Darius the Mede** (Dan 6:1), likely a Median ruler governing Babylon under Persian authority (539 BC).
  - The **law of the Medes and Persians** was considered irrevocable (cf. Est 1:19; 8:8).
  - Daniel is likely in his **80s**, showing that faithfulness to God is lifelong.
  - The Persian administrative system used satraps to govern regions efficiently.
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### Daniel 6:1–5 – Daniel’s Promotion and the Plot Against Him

#### Scripture (CSB):

1 Darius decided to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, stationed throughout the realm, 2 and over them three administrators, including Daniel. These satraps would be accountable to them so that the king would not be defrauded.

3 Daniel distinguished himself above the administrators and satraps because he had an extraordinary spirit, so the king planned to set him over the whole realm.

4 The administrators and satraps therefore kept trying to find a charge against Daniel regarding the kingdom. But they could find no charge or corruption, since he was trustworthy and no negligence or corruption was found in him.

5 Then these men said, “We will never find any charge against this Daniel unless we find something against him concerning the law of his God.”

#### Word Study & Notes

- **Extraordinary spirit** – indicates God-given wisdom, integrity, and discernment.
- **No corruption or negligence** – Daniel’s character is blameless, not merely competent.

#### Historical/Cultural Insight

- Persian officials were often corrupt; Daniel’s integrity stood out sharply.
- Faithfulness to God often provokes envy and hostility (cf. Gen 37:11).

### **Theological Insight**

- God honors faithful character with influence (Prov 22:1).
- Integrity invites opposition in a fallen world (2 Tim 3:12).

### **How/Why Questions**

1. Why did Daniel’s faith become the target of his enemies?
2. How does integrity expose the corruption of others?

### **Application**

- God values faithfulness more than position or power.
  - A godly life may attract opposition—but it also brings credibility.
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## **Daniel 6:6–9 – The Decree Against Prayer**

### **Scripture (CSB):**

6 So the administrators and satraps went together to the king and said to him, “May King Darius live forever.

7 All the administrators of the kingdom—the prefects, satraps, advisers, and governors—have agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an edict that for 30 days anyone who petitions any god or man except you, the king, will be thrown into the lions’ den.

8 Therefore, Your Majesty, establish the edict and sign the document so that it is irrevocable according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be changed.”

9 So King Darius signed the written edict.

### **Word Study & Notes**

- **Went together** – coordinated conspiracy against Daniel.
- **Petitions** – targets prayer, the lifeline of faith.

### **Historical/Cultural Insight**

- Persian kings were often flattered with divine-like honors.
- The law’s permanence heightens the danger for Daniel.

### **Theological Insight**

- Pride blinds leaders to manipulation (Prov 16:18).
- Attempts to suppress worship challenge God’s authority directly (Acts 5:29).

### **How/Why Questions**

1. Why was prayer seen as a threat to the kingdom?
2. How does pride make leaders vulnerable to deception?

## Application

- The world tolerates faith until it demands exclusive loyalty.
  - Obedience to God may conflict with human law.
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## Daniel 6:10–13 – Daniel’s Faithful Response

### Scripture (CSB):

10 When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went into his house. The windows in its upstairs room opened toward Jerusalem, and three times a day he knelt down, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

11 Then these men went together and found Daniel petitioning and imploring his God.

12 So they approached the king and asked about his edict...

13 “Daniel, one of the Judean exiles, has ignored you, the king, and the edict you signed.”

### Word Study & Notes

- **Just as he had done before** – consistency, not defiance.
- **Toward Jerusalem** – hope in God’s covenant promises (1 Kgs 8:46–49).

### Theological Insight

- Faithfulness is shaped by habit, not crisis (Ps 55:17).
- Prayer expresses trust, not fear.

### Application

- Faithfulness is revealed under pressure.
  - Maintain spiritual disciplines before trials arrive.
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## Daniel 6:14–18 – Daniel Thrown into the Lions’ Den

### Scripture (CSB):

14 As soon as the king heard this, he was very displeased with himself and set his mind on rescuing Daniel...

16 The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you continually serve, rescue you!”

17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den...

18 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting.

### Theological Insight

- Human authority is limited; God’s authority is absolute (Ps 146:3–5).

### Application

- Sympathy without courage cannot stop injustice.
- Trust God when human systems fail.

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## **Daniel 6:19–24 – God’s Deliverance and Vindication**

### **Scripture (CSB):**

19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den...

22 “My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths.”

23 Daniel was found to be unharmed, for he had trusted in his God.

24 Those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were thrown into the lions’ den.

### **Theological Insight**

- God delivers according to His sovereign will (Isa 43:2).
- Divine justice is certain, though sometimes delayed (Rom 12:19).

### **Application**

- Trust God fully in moments of testing.
- God honors faith that perseveres.

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## **Daniel 6:25–28 – God’s Glory Proclaimed**

### **Scripture (CSB):**

25 Then King Darius wrote to those of every people, nation, and language...

26 “For he is the living God, enduring forever.”

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

### **Theological Insight**

- God’s faithfulness produces a testimony to the nations (Ps 96:3).

### **Application**

- God uses steadfast obedience to magnify His name.
- Faithfulness leaves a lasting witness.

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## **Summary of Daniel 6**

### **Key Lessons:**

- God is sovereign over rulers, laws, and nations.
- Faithful obedience often brings opposition—but God vindicates His servants.
- Prayer is essential for spiritual endurance.
- God’s deliverance brings glory to His name.

### **Discussion Questions for Reflection:**

1. What habits prepared Daniel to stand firm under pressure?

2. How should believers respond when obedience to God conflicts with human law?
3. How does Daniel's faith challenge us in today's cultural climate?