

Daniel 6 - Deliverance from the Lion's Den

"The Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion." 2 Tim 4:17

THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN DANIEL

Daniel 6 comes alive when we appreciate that this is all about Jesus Christ. The whole Bible is a revelation of the Son of God. Yahweh reveals to us His character and purpose through His Word, and particularly through his Son, the **Word made flesh**: **Jn 1:1,14; Rev 19:13**. The **various types** of our Lord are portrayed to **enhance our understanding of his life and our love for him**. Their purpose is for us to develop an emotional attachment to our Lord. In the book of **Job** for example, Job prays for the salvation of his friends despite their failings: **42:10**. God hears Job's prayer. Herein is found the wonderful outworking of the atonement through the life of Christ.

In **Genesis**, God reveals little about creation. The universe particularly rates only a passing mention: "He made the stars also". However, over 12 chapters are devoted to the life of **Joseph**. In the life of this wonderful young man, we enter emotionally into the life of our Lord. We develop a love for Joseph as we consider his trials, endurance and the salvation of his brothers. Here we are brought to the very centre of God's purpose with creation. **And so it is with Daniel**. In **Daniel 6** we are constantly reminded of **Joseph** and ultimately **Jesus Christ**. These are referred to throughout this summary.

EVENTS IN THE KINGDOM OF MEN

In **Daniel 2:4 - 7:28** the original text was written in Chaldean. These chapters form the heart of the **Kingdom of Men**. **Daniel 2 and 7** are like brackets to events in the Kingdom of men. **Daniel 2** is from man's perspective - an awe inspiring metallic man. **Daniel 7** is God's perspective. He sees them as wild beasts.

In **Daniel 3-6** we have a variety of events typical of what goes on in the kingdom of men: Faithful believers refuse to bow down to idols and are punished. Kings parade in pride about their achievements, then are humbled. Drunken parties and blasphemy against the God of Israel. Faithful prayers of believers in the face of deceitful schemes.

DANIEL 6:1-3 DANIEL'S PROMOTION

Daniel was well known by the Medes and Persians at 90 years old. This shows the amazing reputation Daniel had. Where else in history do you find someone from the previous empire in a position of authority in the next one? **v1 Darius**: Most likely a title rather than a name. It has been suggested that Cyrus put a relative on the throne (a Mede) as a diplomatic measure for a short time. Another suggestion is that the Darius of **Dan 6** is actually Cyrus himself, a different "Darius" to that of **Dan 5:31**. **120 princes**: One for every province of the empire. Later on it increased to 127: **Esther 1:1**.

v2 First: means "one of them". **Accounts**: Daniel was auditing the finances. He is treasurer of the greatest empire in the world. **Damage**: NIV "not suffer loss" particularly relates to financial loss. **v3 Preferred**: Chal. *shine or glitter*, cp. **12:3**. He stood out like a twinkling star. It was the way Daniel conducted himself in daily life: **1 Thess 5:5, Eph 6:5-8, Mt 5:14-16**. Daniel speaks very little in **Dan 6**. **An excellent spirit**: Str. *preeminent*. Also **5:11-14**. A key aspect of Daniel's character: **Prov 17:27; Eccl 7:1; Acts 6:10**. A Christ-like character. **Set him over the whole realm**: **Joseph: Gen 41:38-42** "over all the land of Egypt." **Gen 37:8** "Shalt thou indeed reign over us?"

DANIEL 6:4-9 THE PLOT TO TRAP DANIEL

v4 Fault: They checked everything. There were no flaws in Daniel's work. It is one thing to not do the wrong thing, but another thing again to always do the right thing: **Col 3:22-24; 1 Tim 3:7; 6:1; 1 Pet 2:11-25**. Judges do this with those in court for conscientious objection. It is how we behave, not what we say. Consider also **Psa 26:1-2; 139:23-24; Phil 2:15; Titus 2:8-9; 1 Pet 3:16; 4:14-16**.

v5 Law of his God: The difference between Daniel and others. Could our workmates say this of us? **Dan 6** continually alludes back to **Dan 3**. There was nothing in the law about praying 3 times a day. It was the spirit of the law which was important! See **Gal 3:16-24**.

Jesus Christ: **Matt 27:18** "for envy they delivered him"; **Psa 22:8** "He trusted on Yahweh"; **Matt 26:3-4** "take Jesus by subtlety, and kill him"; **Matt 27:24** Pilate knew Jesus was innocent; **Psa 69:15** Jesus cast into a pit. **Joseph: Gen 37:8,18** "his brethren envied him... they conspired against him to slay him."

v6 Assembled: came tumultuously. Similarly against the apostle Paul: **Acts 22:22-23**. Nations after Armageddon also: **Psa 2:1-2**. **v7** The so called "important" people are here, as in **Dan 3:2**. **All the presidents**: A lie! Daniel was one of the 3 presidents. **Royal statute, firm decree**: cp. **Dan 3:4**. **Joseph: Gen 37:20** "Come now therefore, let us slay him"

DANIEL 6:10-13 DANIEL'S FAITHFULNESS IN PRAYER

v10 Went into his house: RSV *upper chamber*. In Babylon he created a little bit of Israel. The altar of incense was a similar shape to houses in Israel: **Exod 30:3**. It was a scale model of every home because they were to be houses of prayer: **Deut 22:8**, cp. **Mk 11:17**. **Toward Jerusalem**: The hope of Israel, Jerusalem at the centre: **Psa 137:5**. **Chamber**: Jesus alludes to Daniel's example in **Matt 6:5**. **Prayed**: Consistent prayer: **Psa 55:17; 119:164; Lk 21:36**. **As he did aforetime**: The same as always. He does not change.

Consider Solomon's prayer upon the dedication of the temple. Daniel must have had this on his mind: **1 Kgs 8:47-49**. These are the words Daniel prays in **Dan 9**: "**We have sinned**". See also **Psa 5:7; 27:1-3**.

v11 Supplication: Chal. *Mercy, undeserved favour*, as in **4:27**. King is exhorted to be like Daniel. See **Psa 30:8 142:1; Prov 14:21,31** **v13 Captivity of Judah**: Attaching a label on him to degrade him. **Regardeth not thee**: A lie! cp. **3:12**. They appeal to the king's ego.

DANIEL 6:14-17 DANIEL THROWN INTO LION'S DEN

v14 Here is revealed the strong personal friendship between Daniel and the king. The king's lawyers would have looked for a loophole. **Sore displeased**: Chal. *to stink*, ie. "I am a stinking rotter!"

v16 Servest continually: Out of the mouth of a Gentile king! The king pins all his hopes on Daniel's example. **Serve**: **6:20**. Another allusion to **Dan 3**. Look at **3:12,14,17,18,28**. **Deliver**: Big theme of **Dan 3**: see **3:15,17,17; 6:14,14,16,20**. He typified Jesus Christ and his friends who were thrown to "lions" (some literally): **2 Tim 4:17; 1 Pet 5:8; Rev 13:2,7** **Jesus Christ: Psa. 22:13,21** "Save me from the lion's mouth"

DANIEL 6:18-23 DANIEL'S DELIVERANCE

v18 His sleep went from him: Same as in **2:1**. **Jesus Christ: Mt 27:66** "So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone"



v19 Lamentable voice: NIV *an anguished voice*. **v20 Living God**: **Jer 10:10**. God was **living** in Daniel cp. **1 Tim 3:15** **Jesus Christ: Matt 28:1** Deliverance from the tomb early in morning; **Psa 34:7,9,19** "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken." Read all **Psalms 34** and look how many similarities there are with **Dan 6**.

v21 O King live forever: First words of Daniel in **Dan 6**! A common saying, but Daniel would have literally meant it. There are no words of victory or recrimination against others. **My God sent His angel**: Same in **Dan 3:28**. Saved because he was **faithful**: **Heb 11:33** "through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions." **Jesus Christ: Isa 53:7** "He was oppressed, and afflicted, yet opened not his mouth"; **Lk 22:43** "there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him"; **1 Pet 2:21-23** No self justification. **Psa. 57:4** "My soul is among lions."

v23 No manner of hurt: cp. **Dan 3:25**. The apostle Paul knew about this: **2 Tim 4:16-17**. The Gentiles heard as a result of Paul's deliverance out of the mouth of "the lion". What was the result of Daniel's deliverance? **6:25** "King Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages" **Jesus Christ: Psa 16:10; 40:1-2; Acts 2:27; Heb 5:7-8**. **Joseph: Gen 37:24,28** "they cast him into a pit" cp. **Zech 9:11**.

DANIEL 6:24-28 HIS ENEMIES DESTROYED / DARIUS' DECREE

v24 Deut 19:11-13,19. Suffered the same fate they wished on Daniel. Similar to Haman's sons being hanged on his gallows: **Esther 9:13**. **Jesus Christ: Mt 22:6-7** "when the king heard, he was wrath; and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city." **Matt 27:25** "his blood be on us and our children."

v25 Similar language to **Dan 3:4; 4:1; Rev 14:6**. **Jesus Christ: Isa 11:9** Peace comes to all nations. **v26-27 I make a decree**: this is **Dan 2:44**. Daniel must have taught him! God is given the glory. **Signs and wonders in heaven and in earth**: **Dan 2:28; 4:17,32**. **Jesus Christ: Rom 3:25-26** God's glory acknowledged; **Psa 72:11,17-18** "all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him... all nations shall call him blessed" **v28 Daniel prospered**: **Jesus Christ: Acts 2:33** Exalted at the right hand of God. **The reign of Darius**: LXX has "Cyrus" instead of Darius the Mede. See notes on **6:1**.

DANIEL'S PRAYER: An insight into his prayers is in **Daniel 9**, in the first year of Darius. He was a **representative** for his people as Jesus is in **John 17**. Jesus' deliverance from the lions is in **Psa 22:21-31**.