

# Daniel and King Darius

## Lesson 14

### Daniel 6

The events of chapter 6 took place somewhere between 539 – 537 B.C. The mighty Babylonian Empire had been conquered by the Medo-Persians. Sixty two-year-old Darius was king and Daniel was around 80 years of age.

120 officials administered King Darius' new government and Daniel was one of those officials. He soon distinguished himself above all the rest, impressing King Darius, *"That the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom."*

#### **The Plot Against Daniel - Daniel 6:1-15**

1. This honoring of Daniel caused great jealousy among the other 119 officials; so they tried to find some violation to charge against Daniel. What did they find? (Daniel 6:4)
2. What did these men conclude? (Daniel 6:5)
3. How did they put their plan into effect? (Daniel 6:6 & 7)
4. Notice 2 things in their plan:
  - How many officials did they say agreed to the plan?
  - What were they appealing to when they spoke to the king in this manner?
5. The well-rehearsed presentation found its audience right where they had planned. What did they suggest the king should do? (Daniel 6:8)
6. What did this 'wise' king do about the suggestion? (Daniel 6:9)

7. So the decree went out to everyone. What did Daniel do when he learned of this 30-day decree? (Daniel 6:10)
  
8. Daniel's life was well known to all. He was a man of God and so the officials used this to 'trap' Daniel. Who does it say went to 'catch' Daniel in the act of breaking the law? Please comment. (Daniel 6:11)
  
9. List the steps they took to carry out their plot.
  - Step #1 (6:12a)
  
  - Step #2 (6:12b)
  
  - Step #3 (6:13)
  
10. The consequences of breaking the decree must be carried out swiftly. How did the realization of what was about to happen affect King Darius? (Daniel 6:14)
  
11. How did the king's administrators 'help' the king with his decision? (Daniel 6:15)

**Daniel & the Lion's Den - Daniel 6:16-28**

12. The king was trapped by his own pride and stupidity so he had no choice but to give the order to throw Daniel into the lion's den. What did the king say to Daniel, his highest and most trusted advisor? (Daniel 6:16)
  
13. Daniel was then thrown in and a stone was placed over the mouth of the den preventing any escape or assistance. How did they 'seal' the stone? (Daniel 6:17)
  
14. While Daniel was in the lion's den, what was the king doing? (Daniel 6:18)

15. "At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions den." Fill in the chart as the events of the day unfolded.

Reference	Who Spoke	What was Said	Possible attitude of speaker
6:20			
6:21 & 22			
6:23			
6:24a			
6:24b			

16. As a result of this event, King Darius wrote a letter and new decree. To whom was the letter addressed? (Daniel 6:25)

17. What was the new decree? (Daniel 6:26a)

18. What did his letter say? (Daniel 6:26b-27)

19. What final note is added regarding Daniel? (Daniel 6:28)

20. What does this familiar story, in its context, tell you about:

- Daniel?

- God?

21. When was the first time the testimony of Daniel's God was spread throughout the kingdom? (Daniel 4:1-4)