

## Study #7 Bible Reading: Daniel 6:3-23

6:3 Daniel distinguished himself above the other officials and the governors [in Babylon] because there was an unusually fine spirit in him; and the king thought of setting him over the whole kingdom. 4 Then the other officials and the governors tried to find something to accuse Daniel of, something in regard to the work in the kingdom, but they couldn't find any reason to complain or any fault, because he could be trusted and no neglect or fault could be found in him. 5 "We'll find nothing to accuse this Daniel of," these men said, "unless we find it in regard to the rules by which he worships God."

6 And so these officials and governors came rushing to the king. "King Darius, live forever!" they said to him. 7 "All the officials of the kingdom, governors, mayors, counselors, and administrators have planned to have the king pass a law and enforce a decree that during the next 30 days anyone who asks for anything from any god or man except from you, O king, should be thrown into the lions' den. 8 Now, O King, issue an order in writing according to the law of the Medes and Persians that can't be canceled." 9 And so Darius signed the writing with the decree.

10 When Daniel heard the writing had been signed, he went to his home, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and he got down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise Him just as he had done before. 11 Then those men rushed in and found Daniel praying and pleading before his God. 12 And then they went and talked to the king about his decree: "Didn't you sign a decree that during the next 30 days every man who asks anything from any god or man except from you, O King, will be thrown into the lions' den?"

"That's true," the king answered, "according to the law of the Medes and Persians that can't be canceled."

13 "Daniel," they answered him, "one of the people taken away captive from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the decree you signed. Every day he prays three times." 14 The king was very displeased to hear this and planned to save Daniel and tried hard until sunset to rescue him. 15 Then those men rushed to the king, "Remember, O king," they told him, "the Medes and Persians have a law that no decree or law the king makes can be changed." 16 So the king gave the order, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the lions' den. "May your God," the king told Daniel, "Whom you always worship save you!"

17 A stone was brought and laid over the opening of the den, and the king sealed it with his ring and with the rings of his lords so that nothing in regard to Daniel would be changed. 18 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night without eating. Nothing was brought to him to entertain him; and he couldn't sleep. 19 At dawn, as soon as it was light the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. 20 As he came near the den where Daniel was, the king called Daniel with a loud voice: "Daniel, you servant of the living God, was God, Whom you always worship, able to save you from the lions?" 21 Then Daniel spoke to the king: "O king, live forever: 22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they didn't hurt me, because I was innocent before Him – yes, you too know, O King, I haven't done anything wrong." 23 Then the king was very glad and had Daniel taken out of the den. When he was taken out of the den, he was found to be completely unharmed because he trusted his God.