

*1 Daniel 6 “The Lion’s Den”

***2 ‘Daniel delusion’ causes man to jump into lion’s den, trying to ‘provoke a miracle’** May 26, 2016 By Mark Ellis (What do well fed lions in a zoo do with a human being thrown into their cage?)

A 20-year-old Chilean man leaped into a lion enclosure at a Santiago zoo, **apparently suffering from mental illness that inspired religious delusions. (He believed he was Jesus)** Once Franco Roman was inside the enclosure, he took off his clothes and jumped into the midst of the African lions, horrifying visitors who witnessed the attack. The lions immediately pounced on him and began to ‘play’ with him. The startling scene was captured on video by onlookers. One witness, Cynthia Vasquez, told Chilean radio station Bio that **the security personnel at the zoo reacted slowly and the lions did not attack the man as soon as he entered the enclosure.** “He entered the enclosure from above and the lions started to play with him, and then after they attacked him,” Vasquez told Bio...**“He was convinced that he was talking to the lions and due to his divine power they would not hurt him,”** said psychiatrist Dr Italo Sigala, according to the Daily Express...Roman was initially in grave condition and his heart almost stopped, but doctors now expect him to survive. (Sadly, they had to kill the lions to save him)

<http://blog.godreports.com/2016/05/daniel-delusion-causes-man-to-jump-into-lions-den-trying-to-provoke-a-miracle/>

***3 Daniel 5:31 And Darius the Mede took over the kingdom at the age of sixty-two.** (Masoretic Manuscripts & Septuagint place this verse as the first verse of Chapter 6)

Cyrus evidently appointed Darius to rule over the city of Babylon, but Cyrus remained the overall king of the Persian Empire and later ruled himself. ***3a Daniel 9:1 (ESV)** ¹ In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus (names vs titles?), by descent a Mede, **who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—**

Secular history of this period has no record of a ruler named Darius in the particular period and place recorded in Daniel 6. “Darius” may be an honorific title meaning, “holder of the scepter, but if not there are three possible explanations for the Darius of Daniel 6.

However, several explanations are possible: (1) **Darius may have been another name for Cyrus.** Daniel 6:28 may be translated, “So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius, even the reign of Cyrus the Persian.” It was common for ancient rulers to use different names in various parts of their realms. Thus Darius may have been a localized name for Cyrus. (This is the view of D. J. Wiseman, “Some Historical Problems in the Book of Daniel,” in *Notes on Some Problems in the Book of Daniel*, pp. 12–14.)

(2) A second explanation is that **Darius was appointed by Cyrus to rule over Babylon**, a comparatively small portion of the vast Medo-Persian Empire. According to Daniel 9:1 Darius “was *made* ruler over the Babylonian Kingdom.” This suggests that he ruled by appointment, rather than by conquest and thus would have been subordinate to Cyrus, who appointed him. The historical situation leading to this appointment, based on the Nabonidus Chronicle, was that Babylon was conquered by Ugbaru, governor of Gutium, who entered the city of Babylon the night of Belshazzar’s feast. After Ugbaru conquered Babylon on October 12, 539 B.C., Cyrus entered the conquered city on October 29 of that same year. Ugbaru was then appointed by Cyrus to rule on his behalf in Babylon. **Eight days after Cyrus’ arrival (Nov. 6) Ugbaru died.** If Darius the Mede is another name for Ugbaru, as is entirely possible, the problem is solved. Since Darius was 62 years old when he took over Babylon (5:31), his death a few weeks later would not be unusual. According to this view (presented by William H. Shea, “Darius the Mede: An Update,” *Andrews University Seminary Studies* 20. Autumn 1982, pp. 229–47), Gubaru is another spelling for Ugbaru, with the name Gobryas being a Greek form of the same name and appearing in Xenophon’s *Cyropaedia* 4. 6. 1–9; 7. 5. 7–34.

(3) **A third explanation is that Ugbaru, governor of Gutium, conquered Babylon, and that Gubaru, alias Darius, was the man Cyrus appointed to rule over Babylon.** (This is the view of John C. Whitcomb, Jr., *Darius the Mede*. Nutley, N.J.: Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Co., 1974.)

(4) **Still others suggest Darius the Mede should be identified with Cambyses, Cyrus’ son, who ruled Persia 530–522 B.C.** (This view is held by Charles Boutflower, *In and Around the Book of Daniel*. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publishing Co., 1977, pp. 142–55.) Any of these four views may be correct, but perhaps the second one is preferable. Pentecost ¹

What we do know is that YaHWeH told us that the Medes would be a part of those who conquered Babylon! (Isaiah Ch. 13, 21, Jeremiah CH. 51 and Daniel - Nebuchadnezzar’s dream Ch. 2, Daniel’s visions Ch. 7-8 all confirmed this is what would happen.)

***3b Isaiah 13:17–18 (NLT)** ¹⁷ “Look, I will stir up the Medes against Babylon. They cannot be tempted by silver or bribed with gold.” (Isaiah 21:2)

***4 Daniel 6** ¹ Darius the Mede decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces, and he appointed a high officer to rule over each province. ² The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the high officers and protect the king’s interests. ³ **Daniel soon proved himself more capable** than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel’s great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire

¹ J. Dwight Pentecost, [“Daniel,”](#) in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1347.

empire. ⁴ Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. ⁵ So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion."

This is clearly demonic anti-Semitism in the Persian Empire; the book of Esther also contains blatant anti-Semitism! The other leaders knew he was a Jew, that he read God's Word and that he prayed 3 times a day, that's the reason he was so wise! Daniel sought God's supernatural wisdom from His Word. That's why he received those promotions! ***5 Proverbs 4:7-8 NKJV** Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. ⁸ Exalt her, and **she will promote you; she will bring you honor**, when you embrace her.

***5a** The promotions of Daniel in Babylon (as with Joseph in Egypt!) are proof that a believer does not have to compromise to succeed. **The other 122 leaders were not too happy about Daniel's success. For one thing, he was an alien and a Jew. Satan has always hated the Jews and done his utmost to persecute them and eliminate them. The wicked always hate the just.** Warren Wiersbe ²

***6** Today a candidate or nominee for political office is set under this kind of scrutiny, but imagine looking as hard as you can at a public servant in office some 50 years and finding *nothing wrong*. No fraudulent expense accounts. No intern scandals. No questionable business deals. No gifts from lobbyists. No accusations from his staff. Simply, there were no skeletons in Daniel's closet. His enemies examined his life and found nothing to attack – so they had to *make up* something. David Guzik

Unfortunately, in our present culture we have to choose many times between those with more skeletons and those with less skeletons – but a politician today with a character like Daniel are few and far between! Sadly, even if there was one, the media would make up something scandalous and crucify him or her in **the court of public opinion** – which cannot distinguish between truth and lies!

***7 Daniel 6** ⁶ So the administrators and high officers went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! ⁷ **We are all in agreement—we administrators, officials, high officers, advisers, and governors—that the king should make a law that will be strictly enforced. (Lie!)** Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into **the den of lions.** ⁸

² Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Da 6.

And now, Your Majesty, issue and sign this law so it cannot be changed, an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked.”⁹ **So King Darius signed the law.**

First of all, Daniel wasn't included in the discussion, so what they said was a lie. Second of all Darius was puffed up at being made ruler of Babylon! An easy target for deceiving ministers! You can almost always play to a human's vanity – that is one temptation that works most of the time! “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God...” Genesis 3:5

***8** The adversaries' exaggerated their claim that all the rulers of the kingdom had concurred with their proposal. Obviously Daniel had not agreed to it. Nevertheless it was believable enough that Darius did not object or consult Daniel. Furthermore the plan catered to the king's vanity. The proposed statute evidently covered petitions of a religious nature rather than requests of any type since a general ban, even a permanent ban, would have been absurd. Perhaps the antagonistic rulers also aimed at impressing the Babylonians with the importance of remaining loyal to their new Persian king. **In any case they promoted humanism, the philosophy that puts man in the place of God. Tom Constable³**

***8a** “*Parsism* [the official religion of Persia] did not indeed require men to regard the king as a god in his own proper nature, but to pay him supreme homage as the *representative of Ormusd*.” Moses Stuart, *A Commentary on the Book of Daniel*

***9** The Babylonians burned criminals alive (Ch. 4), but the Persians, who worshipped fire, threw them to the lions. Olmstead

Under Persian law, the king was bound by the authority of a royal edict (vv. 8, 12, 15; cf. Esth. 1:19; 8:8). This made his power less than it was under an absolute dictator such as Nebuchadnezzar (cf. 2:39). Tom Constable

“Suppose the law of the land were proclaimed, ‘No man shall pray during the remainder of this month, on pain of being cast into a den of lions,’ – how many of you would pray? I think there would be rather a scanty number at the prayer-meeting. Not but what the attendance at prayer-meetings is scanty enough now!” (Spurgeon)

***10 Daniel 6¹⁰** But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, **he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem.** He prayed three times a day, *just as he had always done*, giving thanks to his God.

³ Tom Constable, [Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible](#) (Galaxie Software, 2003), Da 6:6.

Note that Daniel had a habit ... not a smoking or drinking or watching TV habit; but the good habit of prayer. **Psychologists tell us that certain synaptic connections are set up in our nervous systems so that we do things by habit.** This can be very helpful because a habit is something we do without a lot of deliberation; it just becomes natural to our way of living. **As Christians, we must develop new habits and patterns of prayerfully listening to or reading God's Word every day, and engaging with our Heavenly Father through prayer.** Initially, changing from one practice to another may feel unnatural or strange, but with determination by the grace of God, a new habit can be formed making it easier and easier to progress in your spiritual walk.

Solomon had taught the Jews to pray to YaHWeH facing Jerusalem since that is where He promised to be in a special sense for them (2 Chron. 6:21, 34–39; cf. Ps. 5:7) Tom Constable

He prayed according to Solomon's prayer; toward Jerusalem. ***10a 1 Kings 8:46–51 (NLT)** ⁴⁶ "If they sin against you—and who has never sinned?—you might become angry with them and let their enemies conquer them and take them captive to their land far away or near. ⁴⁷ But in that land of exile, they might turn to you in repentance and pray, 'We have sinned, done evil, and acted wickedly.' ⁴⁸ If they turn to you with their whole heart and soul in the land of their enemies and pray toward the land you gave to their ancestors—toward this city you have chosen, and toward this Temple I have built to honor your name—⁴⁹ then hear their prayers and their petition from heaven where you live, and uphold their cause. ⁵⁰ Forgive your people who have sinned against you. Forgive all the offenses they have committed against you. Make their captors merciful to them, ⁵¹ for they are your people—your special possession—whom you brought out of the iron-smelting furnace of Egypt.

Notice he got down on his knees. While some of us think we are too old for that let's remind ourselves that Daniel was in his late 80's! Heslop said: **"Kneeling is a begging posture and we must all come to God as beggars."** The NT records that this was a normal position for praying! **He knelt down on his knees, praying just as Jesus did, (Luke 22:41), as Stephen (Acts 7:60), as Peter (Acts 9:40), as Paul and other leaders in the church (Acts 20:36), and as Luke (Acts 21:5).** In any event the strength to stand in a hostile culture comes from our time spent with the Lord!

***11 "It was this prayer-fellowship with Yahweh that had safeguarded Daniel from the corrupting influences of Babylonian culture."** Gleason Archer

It isn't hard to see why people are men-pleasers; it *seems* as if people have the power to hire or fire us, to break our hearts, to slander us, to make our lives generally miserable. The power to obey God and stand for Him comes from a settled understanding that God is really in control. David Guzik

***11a** "Unless you are prepared to be in the minority, and now and then to be called 'narrow,' 'fanatic,' and to be laughed at by men because you will not do what they do, but

abstain and resist, then there is little chance of your ever making much of your Christian profession.” Alexander Maclaren

There was danger in both directions. **It would have been compromise to do less or pride to do more. “This was not the act of a person courting martyrdom but the continuation of a faithful ministry in prayer which had characterized his long life.”** (Walvoord)

Yes, Jesus taught us to pray in secret so as not to be like the hypocrites who love to pray publically so they can be seen and admired (Mt 6:5-6). But Daniel is not praying for the purpose of public approval.

Why didn't Daniel obey the government? God's children are taught to honor the authority He has put in place to keep order among sinful men. ***12 Romans 13:1–2 (NIV84)** ¹ Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Daniel knew since an early age that he would obey God first in all things – “He set his heart not to defile himself...” ***When government oversteps their bounds by demanding something contrary to God's Law and His character, then God's child must obey God rather than man.*** We should not be reluctant to pray in public (in a restaurant over our meals; in front of abortion clinics, government buildings, etc.) no matter the consequences!

We need to pray for the Christian school children who persist in bowing to pray over their meals, even though they know this could bring persecution and discipline against them. Pray for the Christian chaplains in the government and in the military who are being told not to pray in the name of Jesus. Any government mandate that tries to forbid or restrict such lawful prayers on the part of Christians must be disobeyed, and disobeyed publicly. You see we must obey God – when men and women in government go bad and force us to choose between the two.

***12a Acts 4:13–20 (NASB95)** ¹³ Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and *began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.* ¹⁴ And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in reply. ¹⁵ But when they had ordered them to leave the Council, they *began* to confer with one another, ¹⁶ saying, “What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them is apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ **“But so that it will not spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no longer to any man in this name.”** ¹⁸ And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, **“Whether it is right in the sight of God to give**

heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge;²⁰ for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

Christians should stand (winsomely and non-violently) against government misuse of God’s authority and especially when a government seeks to remove our right to follow our conscience and God’s word. **Note:** One of the ways we stand in this culture is to vote and get involved in the political process!

***13 Daniel 6**¹¹ Then the officials went together to Daniel’s house and **found him praying and asking for God’s help.**¹² So they went straight to the king and reminded him about his law. “Did you not sign a law that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions?” “Yes,” the king replied, “that decision stands; it is an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked.”¹³ Then they told the king, “That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day.”

***14 Daniel 6**¹⁴ Hearing this, the king was deeply troubled, and he tried to think of a way to save Daniel. He spent the rest of the day looking for a way to get Daniel out of this predicament.¹⁵ In the evening the men went together to the king and said, “Your Majesty, you know that according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, no law that the king signs can be changed.”¹⁶ So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, “May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you.” (Lit. “Your God whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.”)¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel.

We are not told what he prayed, but we know Daniel would have been praying. Maybe he prayed the prayer of Jesus from Psalm 22 (My God, My God...)? ***15 Psalm 22:21–22 (NIV84)**²¹ **Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;** save me from the horns of the wild oxen.²² I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you.

The lions’ den appears to have been a large pit in the ground with an opening above that a large stone sealed, probably to keep people from stumbling into it. Such pits were commonly used as cisterns to store water or as prisons. Goldingay

Nothing is known of the construction of lions' dens. It may have been a subterranean cavern with an opening in the top and possibly also one at the side through which the animals were admitted. ⁴

***15a** Christians today face many temptations to compromise, and it often appears that the "safest" course is to go with the crowd. But this is the most dangerous course. The only really safe place is in the will of God. It is not always God's will to deliver His children from danger; many Christians have given their lives in the place of duty. Warren Wiersbe

16 Revelation 2:10–11 (NIV84)** ¹⁰ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death. (17 Map of modern persecution – 900,000 from 2005-2015 – average 90,000 per year**)

***18 Daniel 6** ¹⁸ Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night fasting. He refused his usual entertainment and couldn't sleep at all that night. ¹⁹ Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he got there, he called out in anguish, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?"

***18a Daniel 6** ²¹ Daniel answered, "Long live the king! ²² My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in His sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty." ²³ The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, **for he had trusted in his God.**

The king was in anguish about Daniel and couldn't sleep, but Daniel had peace because He was trusting in his God – the same God who promises to keep us in "perfect peace" if we keep our minds focused on Him and continue trusting Him (Isaiah 26:3). **Psalm 119:165 (NIV)** "Great peace have they who love Your Law, and nothing can make them stumble."

But you must personally and intimately know the God of peace before you can have the peace of God. In the midst of your trial and turmoil, filled with anxious thoughts and fear, you can turn to Him in prayer; and God's peace can supernaturally and suddenly come over you. There is no earthly explanation for that kind of peace!

⁴ James E. Smith, [*The Major Prophets*](#), Old Testament Survey Series (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1992), Da 6:16–18.

Daniel told the king that God had sent an angel: ***19 Hebrews 1:14 (NIV84)** ¹⁴ Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

***19a Hebrews 11:32–34 (NIV84)** ³² And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ***20 – Cartoon of Lions**

***21 Daniel 6** ²⁴ Then the king gave orders to arrest the men who had maliciously accused Daniel. He had them thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. The lions leaped on them and tore them apart before they even hit the floor of the den.

In the Persian culture, the fact that the lions didn't eat Daniel was a sign that Daniel was innocent. Since Daniel was innocent, his accusers were considered guilty of lying to get someone killed and would receive the same fate they tried to perpetrate on Daniel. Unfortunately the children were included!

***21a** This was obviously severe, but it was also according to ancient customs among the Persians. An ancient writer named Ammianus Marcellinus wrote of the Persians, "The laws among them are formidable . . . by which, on account of the guilt of one, all the kindred perish."

***22 Proverbs 11:8 (NLT)** ⁸ The godly are rescued from trouble, and it falls on the wicked instead.

***22a Psalm 7:15–16 (NIV84)** ¹⁵ He who digs a hole and scoops it out falls into the pit he has made. ¹⁶ The trouble he causes recoils on himself; his violence comes down on his own head.

The effects of people's sins touch others beside themselves. Tom Constable

23 Daniel 6** ²⁵ Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: ***"Peace and prosperity to you! ²⁶ "I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and He will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and His rule will never end. ²⁷ He rescues and saves His people; He performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." ²⁸ So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and (lit. "even") the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

First Nebuchadnezzar, then Belshazzar, Cyrus and now Darius – God has certainly used His servant Daniel to touch the lives of world rulers and change

history! ***23 Proverbs 21:1 (NLT)** ¹ The king's heart is like a stream of water directed by YaHWeH; He guides it wherever He pleases.

Paul taught us that we are to pray for our leaders – the good and the bad!

1 Timothy 2:1–6 (NIV84) ¹ I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.