

Daniel 6
God Will Shut the Mouths of Your Lions
Pastor JD

KAPONO: Amen. Would you join me and bow your heads in a word of prayer? Heavenly Father, how great Thou art. Lord, we thank You so much for this time that we can come in the middle of this week, Lord, and just recharge our batteries through Your word. Would You bless this time together and help our understanding? Be with Pastor JD as he delivers Your word to us this evening, Lord. Again, thank You so much for this time. We ask all of these things in Jesus' name. We say, Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. Good evening and welcome. How y'all doing tonight? [Congregation says, "Good!"] All right. That was actually very convincing. So I'll take it. You can be seated. Welcome. Glad you're here. Those of you online, we're glad that you're joining with us.

We're making our way through this amazing book of Daniel. And tonight, Lord willing, we'll complete *Chapter 6*, which is the halfway point. So *Chapter 6* ends what I'm going to refer to as the historic. And next week, Lord willing, and if we're still here

[Congregation says, "If we're still here."]

Oh, man, you guys.

[Laughter]

I love you. Then, Lord willing, next week, *Chapter 7*, we turn a corner from the historic to the prophetic. This is where Daniel now starts receiving these visions about specific prophetic events, yet future for him, which comport with the prophecies in Revelation, which were, for the most part, in the past for John. So you got Daniel's visions — I'm actually teaching next week's Bible study tonight.

That's *Chapter 7*. So I'm just telling you that because now you have to come next week to hear about *Chapter 7* because we're going to get into some really amazing prophecy that is just mind blowing. So for tonight, though, *Chapter 6* is one of those chapters that is once again very well-known and for good reason, given that there is so much that is so packed into this chapter, chiefly, that of the miraculous shutting of the mouths of all the lions in the den, that Daniel was thrown into after being set up by his jealous enemies.

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And I mean, we're in for a real blessing tonight. I've been looking forward to this chapter. Do I say that about every chapter? I do. Well, this one in particular because there are so many takeaways. But the one that stands out is how that God will shut the mouths of all the lions in my life that seek to devour my life.

Now, before we pray and jump in, I just want to kind of give you a quick update on how we get to where we were last week. For those of you that were here, we saw Babylon fall. How cool was that? If you weren't here, you missed the fall of Babylon. That was in *Chapter 5*.

So some time has passed, not much because we're going to be introduced now to this king from the Medo–Persian Empire, Darius. Some pronounce his name Darius. I hope you don't mind if I just pronounce it Darius.

I just like it better. His reign was only two years. We were told last week at the end of *Chapter 5*, that he died at the age of 62 years old, which is very troubling to me because I turn 62 years of age this year. I'm not going to try to read too much into it. I'm certain that that does not apply scripturally to my life.

So he's only going to reign for two years. He's the Mede king, this Darius, and then he's going to pass the baton, as it were, to King Cyrus, who's the Persian king. And what's interesting about that, just kind of as a side note, is, if you think about it, Daniel has served faithfully, gained the favor in the sight of all of these kings, starting with Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

His dad (Son), who was an absent father, gave the kingdom of Babylon to his son, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, Belshazzar, who Daniel served faithfully under. And then he died last week. Again, if you weren't here, you didn't — anyway...

So when Babylon fell, instantly the Babylonian kingdom was taken over by the Medo–Persian Empire, exactly as God, through Daniel, had prophesied that it would. So we're going to pick it up tonight, now, with the beginning, really the genesis of the Medo–Persian reign under this King Darius.

And it is recorded for us. Very interesting chapter. And I just want us to pray that we don't miss anything that God has for us in *Daniel Chapter 6*. So would you join with me before we jump in? Lord, thank You so much. There's so much here in this chapter that we just know

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You have for us tonight that applies to us in our lives very specifically, maybe even for some very personally. So we want to mine the riches from this chapter, glean from it all that You have for us in it.

Lord, speak into our lives through this fascinating chapter. Just some of the details that are recorded in this chapter are very pertinent to some of the things that many are going through in their lives in this world that we're living in today, as crazy as it is, and even getting crazier. So Lord, we're just going to, with great anticipation, look to You, have ears to hear what it is that You want to say to us, eyes to see, so that when this Bible study is over tonight that we would take with us from it that which You have for us in it.

So would You do that for us tonight, Lord, especially those who are just really struggling and just need an encouraging word from Your word? So Lord, speak. Your servants are listening. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen and amen. All right. You ready? Let's jump in.

Verse 1, "It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, [Keep in mind, Babylon is enormous] [It is huge] [These are like princes, presidents, overseers] [And they were] to be over [We're told] the whole kingdom; and [Verse 2] over these, [The 120] three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, [The three governors, of which Daniel was one] so that the king would suffer no loss.

Then [Verse 3] this Daniel [No surprise here] distinguished himself above the governors and satraps because [Here's why] an excellent spirit was in him."

An excellent spirit? That's the Holy Spirit. And just let's not just read past this word "excellent" real fast and miss what the meaning of this word is. Excel. Excellent. To excel above and stand out in such excellence and it's specific to the spirit of excellence that was in him. Here's why I'm emphasizing it.

You know how it is with some people that their countenance, their demeanor, their disposition, there's just something about them that is so different and outstanding. It stands out. That's, by the way, what the word "outstanding" means too, I know, deeply profound, to stand out. I mean, it's so — kind of like you're in a league of your own, Daniel, and you stand out so far and above everyone else, exceedingly so, you excel them in every way. And the reason for that is because you have the Holy Spirit in you.

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So this excellence that we see in you is because of the Holy Spirit that is in you. I love it when the Holy Spirit becomes evident in our lives to others, when people see the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the excellence of the Holy Spirit: love, joy.

The joy of the Lord: that's the Holy Spirit. And boy, doesn't that stand out when you're talking with somebody who really stands out? I mean, sometimes so much so that when they have an excellent spirit of joy because of the Holy Spirit in them, filling them, baptizing them afresh and anew, that they just exude this joy. Does that not stand out in this world today? We're talking about Christians too here, by the way. I mean, you know, some people are like morose and no joy.

And by the way, listen, there are seasons in life when, you know, you're really grieving and hurting and struggling and any joy, even though James says, "Consider it pure joy when you encounter various kinds of trials" which you know, you wonder sometimes if they missed something in the translation. Something was lost in the translation because really, I'm going to consider it pure joy when I encounter trials.

No, I consider it pure hell when I encounter trials. I mean, it is attainable. It is doable. It is possible to have joy in the midst of such difficult trials in life. But there are those times. There is a season for everything under the sun. I'm not talking about that.

What I'm talking about is there is a joy, a genuine joy, and you can't manufacture it because otherwise it's like plastic, fake fruit. No, this is the real deal fruit of the Holy Spirit. And when somebody has joy, it so stands out and it's so attractive.

I mean, we can go down the list. We might as well, if you don't mind, since I already opened up that can. But love, joy, peace. Everybody's in absolute chaos and turmoil, and they're looking at you, and they're like, what's up with you? You're different than everybody else. Everybody else is freaking out. And you're like, excited. You're joyful, you're full of joy. You've got peace. You're very loving. You're very kind.

You're very — this one's hard for me — I've confessed it — you're very patient. Because that's one of them too. Wish it wasn't on the list. You seem to have this excelling life and spirit about you that is controlled by the Holy Spirit because that's one too, self-control. And there's also one more. It's very rare. It's called meekness, humility.

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That's — boy, does that stand out. I can find pride in abundance. I don't have to look for it to find it. It finds me. Thank you very much. But humility? Well, that's a different story. So all that to say this. Daniel was all of this.

And it's for that reason that Darius wanted to put him in charge of everybody else over everyone else, second in command, similar to Pharaoh and Joseph, Potiphar before him, giving him control of everything so he would worry about no thing because he trusted in the integrity and the excellence of this man.

And make no mistake about it, Darius is the new kid on the block, or better said, the new king on the block. But you gotta know that he would know about this Daniel. Oh, he had heard. I mean, I'm sure he was briefed. Darius, welcome to the kingdom that you are now king over and will rule over, this massive kingdom of Babylon. I'm sure you've got some of your own guys, but you're gonna want to use some of the guys that are already here because they already know how things work around here.

But the number one guy you need to know about is — and I love it because it's his Hebrew name and not the Belteshazzar name that Nebuchadnezzar gave him, that Chaldean name. So now we're back to Daniel. Thank you very much. So because of this excellent spirit because of the Holy Spirit in him, **“The king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.”**

Now we have just got through *verse 3*, but this is now going to set the stage for everything that we're about to see. And I have to warn you, it's going to get ugly. Well, apparently, these governors with Daniel hear about Darius wanting to make Daniel the boss over them. You're not the boss of me! I heard one say, “I'm nothing and you're the boss. So you're the boss of nothing.” Ha-ha.

[Laughter]

I just thought I'd throw that in. So these other governors — and then not just these governors, of which there were two, a total of three, of which Daniel was one, but you got 120 of these satraps, satraps, however you want to pronounce them. I mean, the name alone says it all. It's a trap. They're princes. They're presidents in the sense of presiding over these 120 provinces.

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Well, apparently, they catch wind of this, and they're not too happy about this. *“So [Verse 4, we're told] the governors and the satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but [Big problem] they could find no charge or fault...”*

That's because he was blameless and lived a life above reproach. They could find no fault in him. He was upright. And here's why they could not find anything to use against him *“...because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. [Now verse 5 is very interesting] Then these men said...”*

Because see, they're plotting against Daniel now. He is now the bullseye, the target. He is enemy number one because he is about to be put in a position over them, a position that they themselves want. And now, out of jealousy and envy, they gotta do something about it. They don't want Daniel over them. They've got to find something on this guy. So they hire private investigators, and they're doing online searches and they're doing background checks, and nothing. No results found. So they got a — how do they say it — hatch a plot. I almost said platch a hot.

“Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.”

Would to God that the only thing anyone could ever find to use against us would be our faithfulness and obedience in our service to God. If that's all you can get on me, guilty as charged. Guilty as charged. The only way we're going to get this guy is going to be if somehow, we can trap him. I told you they're traps.

We can trap him, set him up concerning his godliness. Because this is a godly man who faithfully serves God and is obedient to God. He is holy like his God is holy. So we got to come up with something. Let's get creative.

So *verse 6*, they came up with an idea. They hatched a plot. I just got to make sure I keep getting it right. **“So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, [They come in hot, thronged, aggressive] [And urgent] and said thus to him: “King Darius, live forever!”**

That's getting really old, isn't it? Get to the point. Well, we're going to get to the point with the first word in *verse 7*.

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“All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors, and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, [A month] except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.”

Okay, wait a minute. You lie. You lie. You lie. Not all the governors. Daniel wasn't a part of this. Daniel is the one that you're plotting this against. So right out of the chute you say all the governors of the kingdom got together. That's a lie. You lie. I gotta — it just sounds good. It feels good too when you — you lie! You lie!

You know what they're doing here, right? They're setting Daniel up, but they're flattering Darius. Darius, we all met because you've tasked us with the privilege and honor of protecting you and presiding over the provinces of this kingdom that you rule as king. And we're here to protect you. And we think the best way to do that would be to issue this firm, irreversible decree that anybody who prays to anyone, God or man, but you, they shall be cast to their certain death in the den of lions.

“Now, O king...”

Here comes the hard-pressure sale, close. They want him to sign the deal.

“Now, O king, establish the decree...”

And sign here. Sign here. Just sign here. Let me read it first. No, just sign it.

“...and sign the writing, so that it [This is key] cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.”

In other words, when you sign this, it cannot be reversed. It's a done deal. We can't change it. We can't alter it according to our own law.

So verse 9, sadly, **“Therefore King Darius signed the written decree. [Naively, innocently, and soon he'll find out regrettably.] [Verse 10] Now [This is so interesting] [I love the details within God's word] when Daniel knew that the writing was signed...”**

Wait, what? How did he know? Oh, he knew. I would suggest, and I know this is speculative, but it would make sense. I think it has merit. Just hear me out. I suspect because you got to know Daniel, who, by the way, just as a reminder, is in his mid-to-late

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80s. He's a seasoned veteran, and he is nobody's fool. Because you know what comes packaged with the Holy Spirit and an excellent spirit is a God-given wisdom and knowledge. I think he had knowledge even before they approached the King.

He already knew. I mean, you know, when they're invited over to dinner, the other two governors along with him; they never invited Daniel. They were jealous of Daniel. And now they've — can I just say one more time — hatched a plot against Daniel. So you don't think Daniel would have picked up on that? He's a smart guy. So he already kind of knew.

So maybe somehow — and you also got to know that he had guys on the inside who really loved Daniel, that were watching out for him, that had his back, who I'm sure doubtless informed him, Daniel, dude, he signed it.

So “when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, [*That Darius signed it*] he went home. [And fell on his face and cried like a baby] [No] he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem...”

That comes, by the way, vis a vis, Solomon, I think, in the Proverbs about when the Jews were not in their land, they were to pray towards Jerusalem. I mean, talk about obedience in the little things because he's not in Jerusalem. He's captive there in Babylon, now ruled by the Medes and the Persians.

But he's still faithful in prayer. So he opens his windows like he does every day, and toward Jerusalem. He must have had a nice house, custom built. Told the architect and the builder, I need a window right here. That's my prayer window. I have a prayer window, by the way.

Did I ever tell you this? Is that weird? No because I used to get down on my knees. But, you know, when you get older, you're just not so sure you're going to be able to get up at all, let alone quickly. And then also, when you're on your knees — I better stop because — there is something to be said, and it's not that we need to be on our knees for God.

Oh, you're not on your knees? Don't bother praying. No, it's more for us. When you're in that posture of humility before the Lord on your knees, on your face, crying out to the Lord, that's more for you than it is for the Lord.

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Does God hear prayers when you're not on your knees? Absolutely. First of all, I find that I pray much longer when I'm not on my knees because when I'm on my knees, those are very short prayers. In fact, the prayer's been altered. Lord, remove the pain from my knees by being on my knees in prayer.

But I pray walking because I'm kind of, you know, I guess they call it kinesthetic, or whatever the word is for it, but I have this window that I look out, and I just pray. I look up to the sky and, you know, I see that they've sprayed again that day, particularly. But I try to look past that. I'm sorry about that.

But I just look up to the Lord and I just pray through that window and that's become my prayer window. Well, Daniel had a prayer window, and it was pointed toward Jerusalem.

"...he knelt down on his knees..."

This puts me to shame because he's in his mid-to-late 80s. And remember, I'm turning 62. So he's not a young man, but he got down on his knees. And this is astonishing because he did this three times a day, and he did it that day, and he prayed. And it's not so much that he prayed. It's kind of what he prayed and even more interesting, what he didn't pray. We're told he prayed. He's on his knees.

Can we just picture it with our God-given imagination? He hears that basically it worked. Their plot has worked. The deal was signed, and it's just a matter of time before he's going to get thrown into the lion's den, and he knows it. And he just does what he has always done, and he prays. But he doesn't pray, "Oh, God!"

See, I would have totally prayed, God, no! How could You allow this to happen? Please don't let them throw me in the lion's den. I'm an old man. I'm on my knees. I don't even know if I can get up to get into the lion's den. Please, God! No, he doesn't. What is his prayer? There's no petition. He asked God for no thing and thanks God for everything.

Okay, let me just read it because I know I just totally discombobulated this powerful verse. We're still in *verse 10*. **"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows [*Windows, plural*] open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days."**

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Translated: He's been doing that ever since he arrived as a captive in Babylon. He was in his 20s. Let's do some math. Every day for over 60 years, three times a day he would pray, pointing to Jerusalem.

Wow! No wonder. No wonder he found favor in the eyes of God and man. No wonder he excelled and was put in charge as governor over the kingdom with all of these kings. It's going to happen with Cyrus coming up too. Spoiler alert.

But he's been doing — here's the point. I'll stop yelling at you. I'm yelling at myself. It's all about prayer. Prayer is the reason for the answer to a blessed life. And would you agree that Daniel's life was a blessed life? I mean, God blessed this man exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond anything he could have ever imagined, let alone asked or prayed for. He was a man of prayer. He was also a man of the word. But he was a man of God.

Well, *verse 11*, **“Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.”**

Can you say entrapment? Oh, and here's an interesting detail. They got, him to sign this, effective for a term limit of 30 days. They didn't need 30 days. They knew they would get him day one and did. Because they knew what Daniel was doing.

In fact, could you imagine? You're there, you're just kind of hanging around. And here's a bunch of guys close to where Daniel is. Oh, there he goes again. Yeah, man, that dude does that every day. What does he do? He goes up to his upper room in his house, and he opens up his windows that apparently point to Jerusalem, and he prays. He does this thing three times a day.

You know, we're playing cards, having lunch on our breaks. He prays. We play. He prays. And they knew that about him. And that's why they got the king to do what he did in issuing this decree. And they were just waiting for him to go about his daily routine of praying, making petitions, supplication against the edict that the king just signed.

And *verse 12*, they don't go to Daniel and say anything like, gotcha! Come with us. No, they go right to the king. *Verse 12*, **“And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king’s decree: [Now I want you to pay particular attention to how they word this] [It's painful] [They say this to the king] “Have you not signed a decree that every man who**

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petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" *[Oh, come on, you guys] [Really?]*

The king answered and said, **"The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."** So *[Verse 13]* they answered and said before the king, *[Listen to this]* **"That Daniel, [You know, the guy who's the slave] (who is one of) the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."** *[Verse 14 is also painful]* And the king, **when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself."**

In other words, they tricked me. He wasn't so much angry with them, though I'm sure he was, but he was more angry with himself for letting them do that to him. He was so displeased with himself.

And get this. He **"set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him."**

He stayed up all night looking through the law for a loophole, to somehow keep Daniel where his heart was set out of that lion's den. He knew he had been deceived and duped and tricked, and he hated himself for it. And all this self-loathing, being displeased with himself was so great that he was doing everything and stopping at nothing to come up with something. And he stayed up all night to do it.

It gets even more interesting. *Verse 15,* **"Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law [And they said it just like this too, by the way, emphasis added] it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed."**

In other words, nice try, give it up. You can't change the law, nor are you going to find a loophole in the law. We know what you're doing. We know you love this guy. You favored this guy, and you want to put this guy in charge over us. And you're trying to figure out how to outwit us because we outwitted you.

Man, if I'm — No, I won't tell you what I would do. Just use your imagination. Not too much, though. God's going to, by the way, have the final word. I can't wait. We'll get there.

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So it's almost like they're saying, let's get this show on the road, O King. What's taking you so long? Why are you hesitating? Why do you keep trying to figure out how to get out of doing this? O King, you need to do this. It's the law!

“So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But...”

This is unthinkable. What this king does is unthinkable in that day. And even in the Middle East, modern-day, this would not be — this would not be fathomable. **“But the king spoke, saying to Daniel...”**

Wait, the king is talking to the guy that he has just basically sentenced to death by throwing him into the den of lions? And listen to what the king — first of all, the fact that he would even speak to Daniel. You got to know that these other governors and satraps are fuming inside. They want Daniel in that lion's den. And here, the king wants to have a chat with him.

“But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, [And I love this] [Listen to this] “Your God, whom you serve continually, [Interesting detail] He will deliver you.”

Oh! Right? Now the right isn't there, but it's — the tone is everything. I wonder how he said it. I wonder what the emphasis was on. I wonder and you know sometimes you can make a statement, but it comes off as a question?

Example: Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you, question mark, right? Or maybe it was, Your God whom you serve continually, He will deliver you because I can't. Maybe it's both. Maybe it's all of the above. Well, these guys are growing very impatient by the second.

So verse 16, **“(Then) a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed. [It's the law!] [Just following orders!]**

Now [Verse 18] the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting.” What? Wait a minute.

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First of all, **“Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.”** I'm believing God for this, by faith. I'm putting my trust in Your God, Daniel. And I'm going to fast and pray that He delivers you. And tonight everything's canceled. Because you see, every night they would bring in musicians, the orchestra. They would play, drink, party. **“And no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him.”**

One has suggested that it's very possible that Daniel got a better night's sleep in the lion's den than Darius did in his palace. And that's not necessarily hyperbole because again, when you read a detail like this in God's word, it's there for a reason.

God, by the Holy Spirit, deemed it necessary to include this detail that he couldn't sleep. How could he? He stayed up all night fasting. No partying. The musicians are warming up their instruments; it's canceled. Go home, go home. King doesn't want to see you. He's not in the mood. He's very concerned about Daniel. And he's going to end up staying up all night fasting.

And **“Then [Verse 19] the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste...”** [*He ran*]

This is unthinkable too. I think of the parable of the, as it's affectionately referred to as the prodigal son. You know, it's really more about the father because the father is waiting and watching from afar for his son to return. And when he sees his son return — you know, the son that took his inheritance and partied it all away and wasted it and blew through it, and then wanted to go back home and was willing to work as one of his father's servants because he was cleaning pig pens, which for a Jewish boy was prohibited, an unclean animal. He had gone to the depths of the depths of the depths of low, and he returns.

And where's the father? He's in the driveway. I'm trying to bring it into modern terms. And in that day the fathers, they wore robes and we're told — here's another detail for you — we're told that when the father saw his son returning, he gathers his robe and runs to his son.

You'll never see that in the Middle East. You'll never see that in the Middle East. Boy, you come here, boy! You wasted the family inheritance. Boy, you're done. How dare you come back home? I told you, if you leave, don't bother coming back.

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No. Get the fattest calf, the best cut, and we're going to have the biggest feast. My son is home. He ran to him. It's really a parable about our Father in heaven who waits, watches for us to come back and return to Him.

He's not angry with us. He's not going to beat us. No, He's going to throw a party for us. Why? Because we're home. And He loves us so much. Now here's a king running to the electric chair facility, a.k.a. the lion's den.

He's been up all night, fasting. I don't know how early it was. I gotta believe that as soon as the sun started coming up, he started running there. **“...and he went in haste to the den of lions. “And when [Verse 20] he came to the den, he cried out with [Notice] a lamenting voice.”**

Cry out. Talk about tone. You know, you miss it when you read it. It's just words on the pages of our Bible or our device. I gotta bring it to modern day. Lamenting voice. He was crying out, Daniel!

“The king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Daniel, [Listen to this] servant of the living God, has your...”

I think these guys are watching going, oh my! King, what are you doing? You're embarrassing yourself. You're embarrassing us too, your subjects. No king runs to the lion's den to see if the guy that we threw in there, that you put your signet ring on because it's the law. Who does that? Well, I do that.

So he's crying out. **“Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”**

Lions, lions... (Echo) Effects added. And he waits with bated breath to hear Daniel's voice, fully expecting not to because who's going to survive that?

“Then Daniel said to the king, [Verse 21. Wow!] “O king, live forever!”

I submit to you that every subject in his short reign who ever said, as was the custom, “O king, live forever,” no one who ever said it meant as much to this king as when Daniel said it to him. He's still in the lion's den.

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Man, I would have loved to have been a fly on a camel or something to see the look on the faces of these other governors and satraps when they hear (Stuttering) He's fine! He survived! He just said — I know Daniel's voice. He just said, O King, live forever. And now he's going to explain what happened.

Verse 22. I love it when God does this. And God did this. **“My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, [And here’s why] because [I’ve done nothing wrong] I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.”**

Now [Imagine] [This is an understatement] the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. [I wonder how he said that] [Get him out of there, now!] [Was that too much?]

So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and [It reminds me of his three friends in the furnace] and no injury whatever was found on him because he believed in his God.”

Oh, never underestimate belief as opposed to unbelief. Daniel believed God. He put his life in God's hands. God, if this is it, that this is how it ends, I mean, it's win-win for me. I mean, I either survive this and serve You or I don't survive this, and I'll be with You.

So (Flipping a coin) I want you to know something here before we move on and bring it to an end. It's very important. Because we're told that nothing happened to him, just like his three friends. Not even the smell of smoke. They didn't even smell like they'd been barbecuing after being in that seven times hotter fiery furnace. He comes out of there like he had never been in there.

And this also presupposes that they had to do kind of an examination to see if he was injured in any way. Like, didn't the Lions at least, like, you know, try to eat you? You know, is there any — like there's no bite marks?

I think one of the governor's is like, hey, check for bite marks. See, no, nothing. He looks better than he did when before we threw him in. Looks like he got a really good night's sleep, too.

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Now, what I want to point out here. And we can't miss this, please. The detail of this angel that God sent shutting the lion's mouths. Why is that important? Because it implies that these lions were very hungry. And we're going to see that in a moment.

So they would have eaten Daniel and I mean, consumed him completely. But God shut their mouths so they couldn't. That's why I chose the title as the main takeaway to our Bible study tonight because our enemy is likened unto a roaring lion.

You know, these man-eating lions that stalk their prey and they study. They're very patient and they just watch us and they're just waiting. They made a movie about this, many years ago with Val Kilmer. It was a true story, in Africa, about these man-eating lions. And they would wait for someone to get kind of out of the group. And they were very patient for that optimum time to strike. And they would pounce and pray and devour.

And that's what Satan, our enemy, is likened to, a lion seeking to devour us. Not if God keeps that lion's mouth shut so he can't. God will deliver you. Ask Darius. How's He going to deliver you? It's not just that He's going to deliver you. How is He going to deliver you? In a way that you could have never imagined. Because His ways are so much higher than our ways and too high for our understanding.

See, I would have, if I were God, I would have just sent an angel and basically just made those lions feel like, man, I am so full I can't eat another bite. Maybe one more bite of that pie. But after that there's just — I mean, Daniel, I admit he looks delicious, but I'm just so full. I would have done it that way.

But God's ways are not my ways. That's my way. But no. What's God's way? He somehow, miraculously, in the realm of the supernatural, takes and shuts their mouths so they couldn't even growl and roar. And they're starving. They haven't had anything to eat all day and now all night.

And it wasn't because — because that would be explicable. I mean, that would be explainable, right, in the realm of the natural? Well, he survived the den. Maybe we just need to do a do over because apparently the lions must have went through Taco Bell drive-through and ate and got full, so they didn't eat him.

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No, no, this — that, you can explain that. This you can't explain outside the scope of God's miraculous hand of protection in delivering Daniel out of the lion's mouth by shutting their mouths.

Listen, we don't wrestle against flesh and blood. The enemy is the enemy, not your neighbor next door that plays the music really loud and does things. You know they do it on purpose just to get to you. They park right where you usually park. They're not the enemy. But God can still shut their mouths too.

“And the justice of your cause, [Like Psalm 37] will shine like the noonday sun.” Your innocence, justice will be served. You've been falsely accused and sentenced to death, and God has intervened.

And I love Psalm 37. Maybe this is for somebody tonight. In your time in God's word, spend some time in Psalm 37. It'll be very encouraging for you. Because David writes, don't fret, don't get angry when the evil prosper. They're going to be here today, gone tomorrow. It seems like they're going to get away with it. I mean, these guys, it looked like they were going to get away with it.

No, no, no, no, no, no. They're not going to get away with it. I'll have the final word. Just wait. You'll see. Wait on the Lord. Don't get angry. Don't try to take matters in your own hands because you want to help God out. God, I got this. I'll take this one. And we make a bigger mess and make it worse.

Now God's really got more lions that He's got to shut mouths of and deliver us from. So God's promise to us is that He will make the justice, the innocence of our cause shine like the noonday sun. But we have to wait on the Lord to do it.

I wonder what Daniel did. I mean, again, if he got a good night's sleep, he probably just thanked God because that's what he does. He doesn't even ask God, deliver me from the lions. He's probably, thank You God. I mean, you know, these lions kind of make comfortable pillows.

[Laughter]

Now *verse 24*, I love this. Let me have this one. We're almost done.

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“And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused *[Better said, falsely accused]* Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions—”

Just give me a moment. Esther: think Haman, builds these gallows for Mordecai. And don't think hanging ropes. No, these were sharp objects. Some, I forget how many feet high, that they would impale the people on for a slow and grueling and painful death. And this Haman is building these gallows to impale Mordecai on.

Guess who ends up getting impaled on those gallows? Haman and his son. And sadly, we see this here. Not just these men, **“their children and their wives.”**

Now please, when you read something like this in God's word, never think this is God's will or God's way. This is their way, the pagan way. No child ever pays for the sins of the father. But this is what they did. How sad is this? Now this is where it gets a little bit graphic.

“And the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.”

I mean, I was going to say, let that sink in, but actually don't let that sink in. Wow!

“Then *[I wish he didn't do this]* *[But we're told in verse 25]* King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. *[We've heard that before from pagan kings, haven't we]* I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and steadfast forever. His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end. He delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth.”

This is a Mede king, a Medo–Persian king, pagan king. Would the God that some Christians would glorify God like this.

“He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. So this Daniel *[Verse 28. Last verse]* prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.”

Cyrus, the Persian king will succeed Darius, the Mede king. The end.

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What are we going to take home with us tonight? Are you in a lion's den right now? God will deliver you. He will shut their mouths. Do you have somebody in your life that has got it out for you? Don't. Don't. **"Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord."**

Wait on the Lord. Don't fret. When evildoers prosper in their ways, seemingly get away with what they're doing to you, talking stink about you, posting stuff about you on social media, don't get angry. Don't fret. Just wait.

And by the way, you don't have to inform God. He already knows. He's all-knowing. So you know, don't waste time. God, did You see what they posted on my newsfeed about me? They've talked and stink about me. Yeah, I'm all-knowing.

Could you imagine when you pray and you say, Lord, you know, on Tuesday, did You know — You know what happened on Tuesday? And then God responds with, no, what? I missed it. What happened?

How disconcerting would that be? No. He's all-knowing. He knows. He knows and He knew they were going to post that before they posted it. But what He wants you to do is let Him do it instead of you and for you. Just wait on Him to do it. Wait on the Lord. Just wait. You'll see.

Remember hearing that as a kid? I heard that so many times. Just wait. You'll see. And being the patient guy that I am, I would just wait and see. No, I wouldn't. I don't want to wait. I want to see. No, just wait. You'll see. No, I want to see. I don't want to wait. I hate to wait.

No, just wait. You'll see. The Lord's saying, just wait. You'll see. Because what I'm going to do is going to be way more better than what you had in mind. Because you see, you would have done something different.

But what I'm going to do is way cooler because I'm going to have — now those lions are really hungry because they just had their mouths shut by the angel that God sent, so they wouldn't eat you. And that's only a single-patty burger. What they're going to get is a 120-course meal, actually 122 if my math is right.

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And oh, plus the family. I shouldn't have brought it up. But even before they hit the ground, they have broken every bone. You know how powerful lions are. King of the jungle. They're not called that for no reason.

And so God has the final word. God will deliver you. Let Him. Don't try to help Him. Don't fret. Just wait. Yeah, they've got it out for you. The enemy is on you hard. They're looking for something to get you on.

You're being falsely accused and slandered and blamed, and the flesh just wants to — I mean, everything within your flesh — and we're done — everything within your flesh just wants — especially when it's behind that screen on social media where there's a degree of anonymity and protection, you just want to (Unleashing sound)

Oh, I'm sorry, young people with the devices, those thumbs go a million miles an hour. I don't know how you — smoke coming off your — when you're (Angry sounds while texting)

Oh, come on. Am I right?

And God's going, No! Yeah, but do You know what they did to me? They had me thrown into the lion's den. Had it not been for You shutting their mouths, I would not be alive. They would have to take down my social media account.

No, I know exactly what they did. But I'm still in control. You're not. I know you want to be because you're a control freak. Can we talk? I won't look at anybody when I say this. You know who you are. You want to be the one in control. You want to control the outcome. You want to have a say in it. You want to get even.

You know, the eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth. You know how that law, the Jewish law, you know, that's really misunderstood. The reason it's an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth is because we — if someone takes out our eye, we want their both eyes. If someone takes out one of our teeth, we want them to get dentures. We're going to take all their teeth. It's not just getting even. We want to one up.

Oh, yeah? No, let God. He'll take care of it. And when He does, you will glorify Him and thank Him not just for doing it, but in awe of Him for the way that He did it. Just let Him. Three things — I know I said I was done.

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Now I'm really done. Three steps, three-step program. This is what we're going to take home with us. Step 1: Know you can't. Step 2: Know God can. Step 3: Let Him and get out of His way. Don't get in His way. Don't check in on Him.

God, how's it going? What's the progress? I need a status report, update on, You know, what we're going to do about this. No, just let God do what God is going to do. He will deliver you. He will shut their mouths. Just let Him do it.

All right. Kapono, would you get up here and save me and these precious people who have been sitting for a long time? You can stand. We'll close in song and prayer. Oh, Lord, this is — this is not some fiction story. This literally happened exactly this way. Wow!

Oh, God, for us tonight, we want to leave here with that belief, faith assurance, knowing that if You are for us, then no one or no thing can come against us. And no weapon or plot that is hatched against us or formed against us will ever prosper or succeed. Lord, we need to be reminded of that.

And thank You for this much-needed reminder in *Daniel Chapter 6*. Thank You for recording this account and having it in the canon of Scripture for us all of these generations later to be able to read, hear, take to heart, and take home with us because that's what we're going to do by the Holy Spirit. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.