

# Daniel 6

Love and Humility

## September 23, 2015?

- **Isaac Newton prophesy:** [Daniel] From time Jerusalem is back under control of Jews [June 7<sup>th</sup> 1967] till 17, 640 days or 49 biblical years later will be September 23, 2015 something...
- **Day of Atonement:** Some believe rapture
- **Tomorrow land date:** End of world date?
- **Pope Francis to visit White House.** 266<sup>th</sup> Pope and on 266<sup>th</sup> day of 2015 coming to WH
- **French ambassador to US predicts Global Chaos:** Said 3-4 to John Kerry last year
- **Asteroid:** Get some chips and dip and relax. We are cupped in God's hand

## Daniel Ch. 1-6: Moral Lessons and Historical Narrative

**Chapter 1:** Deportation from Israel of the 4 Teenagers to Babylon: **Courage to Stand**

- Confronted with compromise: They don't. Kosher food

**Chapter 2: Daniel interprets** dreams for the king He and friends raised up. Future Kingdoms

**Chapter 3: Refusing to Bow to idols:** Furnace. Un-singed

**Chapter 4: Conversion of Evil King:** Written by Nebuchadnezzar

**Chapter 5: Babylon Falls**

- **Daniel 5: Fall** of Babylon w/out force in 539bc under rule of Belshazzar
- **Revelation 17-18: Doom** of Babylon Religious/Economic System forever. Never to rise again. Ever.

**Chapter 6:** Concludes historical narrative. Chapter 7-12 visions and prophesy

## Chapter 6 Introduction:

- 400 yrs. between OT/NT period are not lost: Daniel 2 Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

1. Babylon: Gold Head
2. Medes/Persians: Silver Arms and Chest
3. Greece: Bronze Belly/Thighs
4. Rome: Legs of Iron
5. Later AC: Iron and Clay

- **Babylon: First Kingdom of Ch.2 prophesied to fall...Falls in Ch.5:**
- Cyrus the Persian takes Babylon **without a fight** [fall not doom ]
- **539bc:** Daniel and friends still in Babylon with new Persian bosses
- Cyrus the Persian now rules Babylon with/under him is **Darius the Mede**
- **3 Boys:** Hananiah [Shadrach] Mishael [Meshach]Azariah [Abednego]

1. **Daniel-** not mentioned in Ch. 3: Boys preserved in fire
2. **Boys-**not mentioned here in Ch. 6: Daniel preserved in Lions Den

- **Chapter 3:** Saints preserved through human hatred and persecution
- **Chapter 6:** Saint preserved through Satanic hatred and persecution

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. *You and I live in a lion's cage. That cage is the world, and there is a big roaring lion prowling up and down the cage. Peter calls him the devil. [JVM]*

- Devil's hatred of God/God's people manifested through jealousy and rage of men

## I. Blameless before Men

1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; 2 and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss.

- **Darius:** 4 Possibilities
  1. **Cyrus**
  2. **Cambyses:** Son of Cyrus later to inherit the throne
  3. **Gubaru:** Appointed by Cyrus after capture of Babylon
    - Gubaru his name/Darius his title lit. "holder of the scepter"
  4. **Darius Cyaxares II:**
    - "Darius" is the Darius Cyaxares II of secular history, and he ruled for only 2 years. Cyrus, who followed him, was the son of Darius the Mede's sister Mundane and Cambyses the Persian. This is what brought the empire together into the Medo-Persian Empire which now ruled the world. [JVM]

### **Darius is now king over what was the Babylonian Empire.**

- Kings did not have total authority like Babylonian Kings
  1. Nebuchadnezzar above law...Mede/Persian not so much
  2. Statue of Chapter 2 in view: Kingdoms degrade. Here Gold to Silver
- **120 Satraps** under **3 Governors**
  1. **Daniel:** One of 3 Governors; i.e. Prime Minister
    - Satraps report to Governors
    - Governors made sure Satraps honest
- **Integrity rewarded:** Daniel leader in both Babylon and Mede/Persia Empires
  1. Doing what you say you are going to do
  2. What you do when no one is watching

3 Then this Daniel **distinguished himself** above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him...

- Daniel **distinguished himself** above the 120 Satraps and 3 Governors

"Daniel's life and walk with his Lord distinguished him above others. No words from Daniel

were necessary" [NJC]

- **Excellent spirit** was "in him": Spirit [heb. *ruwach* or Breath] Lived Life

**Daniel was filled with God's Spirit. Led by His Spirit. Walked in the Spirit.  
People saw it!**

**3b ...and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.**

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Seat in the Kingdom as Joseph and Moses**

4 So the governors and satraps sought to find some **charge** against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find **no charge or fault**, because he was **faithful**; nor was there any **error or fault** found in him.

- **Sought to find fault; i.e.** Accusation of treason to the kingdom
- **Find a chink in his armor**

## **Daniel was Blameless before Man**

1. Faithful to new government
2. Found no fault [Daniel/Joseph]
3. Found no error found [mistake]

The world may not know the intricacies of doctrine or the intimacies of worship with God but they can tell a bad temper, selfishness, conceitedness or dishonesty when they see it. "The world is a very poor critic of my Christianity, but it is a very sufficient one of my conduct." [Maclaren]

**From age 17-90 Daniel was in the service of Pagan Kings. Now 50 Years of service and no fault found. No skeletons in closet.**

- **Not sinless:** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

**Acts 24:16** [Paul before Felix] I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

5 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."

- We know he is devoted to his God
- How can we back him into a corner and catch him? **Entrapment...**

**Matthew 21:23** [When Jesus...] came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" 24 But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: 25 The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men? "And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." And

He said to them, **"Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."**

**Matthew 22:15** [The...] Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk. 16 And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. 17 Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" 18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? 19 Show Me the tax money. "So they brought Him a denarius. 20 And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" 21 They said to Him, "Caesar's. "And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they had heard these words, they marveled, and **left Him and went their way.**

- **Shrewd as Serpent...**Gentle as a dove. Don't forget the first part!

**1 Peter 3:15** [When you are persecuted/falsely accused/ backed into a corner] ... sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

- Even when Daniel was a young man he was blameless

**Titus 2:6** ... young men...be sober-minded, 7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

- College: 80% fall away...

**Psalms 119:99** I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.

SUMMARY: Blameless before men. How are our politicians doing?

## II. Deceitful Decree

6 So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever!"

- Thronged [crowded, packed, jammed together] before the king
- **Flattery:** King Darius live forever

**Leaders must learn not to ingest either criticism or flattery into their inner being**

As Christian workers, worldliness is not the trap which most engagers us: nor is it sin. The trap we fall into extravagantly desires spiritual success. Never seek after anything other than the approval of God. [Oswald Chambers]

**People Pleaser?** Any criticism will be too much to bear and all flattery will never be enough [NJC]

A long time ago I discovered that I am not as bad as my enemy's say I am and not nearly as good as my friends say that I am [JVM]

- What God thinks is all that matters:

**1 Corinthians 4:3** But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

- Darius was Vulnerable to Flattery

7 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...

- Everyone against Daniel. Daniel against the world
  1. Governors
  2. Administrators
  3. Satraps
  4. Counselors
  5. Advisors

**...consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree...**

- **SO?**

**Romans 8:31b** If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

- It may look like we are losing in this life but victory is sure...

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- One day the persecution, false-accusations, mockery end permanently
- Now, demons consult one another in smoke-filled rooms: How to rid us from earth...

**John 3:19** And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

- Find a way to snuff out the light: Law, Intimidation, Force compromise
- **The Deceitful Decree:**

7b ... that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.

- Law of the land:
  1. No one prays to any god/man... except the king...for 30 days
  2. **Penalty:** Ripped apart by lions

"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! but if there were the penalty of being cast into a den of lions, I am afraid the prayer-meeting would be postponed for a month, owing to pressing business, and manifold engagements of one kind and another." [Spurgeon]

8 Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the **law of the Medes and Persians**, which does not alter." 9 Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

3. Law of Medes/Persians which "**does not change**"

The decrees of a Persian king were unchangeable because he was thought to speak for the gods, who could never be wrong and never needed to change their minds. [Guzic]

- **Puffed up:** King signs not thinking of Daniel?
- Blameless before men established
- Blameless before God to be determined:

**SUMMARY: Deceitful Decree.** Jealousy provoked the murder Jesus and Stephen, persecution of Paul, and here the attack on Daniel. Who is the jealous spirit behind the persecution?

**Isaiah 14:12** [Dual prophesy of both King of Babylon and Devil] "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

### III. Response to Intimidation/Bullies

**I HATE intimidation** by Bullies. I only want to be intimidated by Jesus.

I don't want to be moved by anything or anyone else but Jesus...I will not be moved by circumstances...nor by the fear or intimidation of man... **Period.**

**Daniel 6:10** Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows 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.

- **Daniel's choice is our choice:** Fear God or fear Man
  1. Obey God?

2. Cave to fear and obey men?

- **Voices will be screaming until Jesus comes...**
  1. Conform or you will be punished!
  2. Compromise!
  3. Following God is for the weak!
  4. Follow the crowd!
  5. Stop being a fanatic!

**The world is a bully. Wants to intimidate and control us. You will do what we say. You will believe what we tell you or we will embarrass you, punish you, kill you...**

**Luke 12:4** "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, **fear Him!** 6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."

- Daniel watches this all go down. He knows the law is signed. So what?

The power to obey God and stand for Him comes from a settled understanding that God is really in control. [Guzic]

- Daniel's response to response to intimidation: Unmoved
  1. **Goes home**
  2. **Heads upstairs:** Private. His Secret place
  3. **Opens window**
  4. **Kneels down and prays**
    - Toward the temple in Jerusalem 200 miles west of Babylon
  5. **Gives thanks:** Man of thankfulness/gratefulness ***in every situation:***

**1 Thessalonians 5:16** Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. [not "for everything" but "in everything"]

- **Eternal Perspective:** Nothing is without purpose in a believers life

**Romans 8:28** A...we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among **many brethren.**

- We are to be *unmoved by intimidation* as was our elder Brother's example:

**John 19:10** Then Pilate said to [Jesus], "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?"<sup>11</sup> Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above."

- Daniel recalls Solomon's prayer at the building dedication of Temple in Jerusalem:

**1 Kings 8:48** [...when your people] return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and **pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers**, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name: 49 then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause

- Daniel **kneels down** to pray:
  1. **Jesus** Luke 22:41
  2. **Stephen** Acts 7:60
  3. **Peter** Acts 9:40
  4. **Paul/Church Leaders** Acts 20:36
  5. **Luke** Acts 21:5

#### **V. 10 Gave thanks before his God...as was his custom since his early days**

Others might have considered it risky for Daniel pray as was his custom. Daniel knew that the safest thing he could do was radically obey God. [Guzic]

- After Pentecost we pray in all directions...

**John 4:21** Jesus said to [the woman at the well] "... believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father...24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." [Veil torn. Enter boldly into God's presence]

- **As was his daily custom?** Go to the upper room, open window and give thanks 3 x a day

**If you were on trial for being a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ...Is there enough evidence to convict you as a Christian?**

- **What are your daily customs?**
  1. Wake up seeking God's will
  2. Special Time at Secret Place
  3. Ask to be filled with His Spirit
  4. In Word: Not Bible Study but communion
  5. Prayer: You and others
  6. Words/Actions throughout the day

**Psalm 19:14** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

- **Jesus was everything to Daniel:**

**Psalm 1:1** Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.4 The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the



wind drives away.<sup>5</sup> Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.<sup>6</sup> For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

- **Were the Governors/Satraps jealous of Daniel?**

1. Not addicted to anything
2. Joy, Love, Life, Light
3. No need to people please
4. Know that you are accepted by God
5. Not in need of riches
6. Not spun

- **Daniels Witness:** Instead of wanting to get better...they get bitter

1. **Same son that melts butter hardens clay**
2. **Word will not come back void:** Your heart will become softer or harder

- **Darkness hates light:** Daniel is light in a world of darkness...

11 Then these men assembled and **found Daniel** praying and making supplication before his God.

- **These men:** At least 122 head down to Daniels house

12 And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?"

- By the way...didn't you sign a some new law...

The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, **which does not alter.**"<sup>13</sup> So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, 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."

- Daniel the Jewish Slave does not respect you. Breaks the law praying 3 times a day

14 And the king, when he heard these words, was **greatly displeased with himself**, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

- **Eastern custom:** Execute same night of crime. Daniel would die tonight!
- **Greatly Displeased with himself:**

1. Regrets foolish decision that brings another hurt
2. Could not see past the flattery of the Satraps and Governors

Like Darius, our foolish decisions often haunt us. Often all we can do is pray and ask God to mercifully and miraculously intervene when we make foolish decisions. [Guzic]

- Purposed to find a loophole in the law
- Worked within legal system till night

15 Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

- **Don't try to anything sneaky!**
- Sign of lesser kingdom than Babylon which was dictatorship. Gold to Silver

#### **SUMMARY: Response to Intimidation...**

- **Be Ready:** Daily Walk; praying, filled w/Spirit, reading, meditating, right mouth/heart. Let it be our custom. Start a new custom.
- **Stay Steadfast:** Set face like flint; unmoved by/ready for tribulation...Wind waves
- **Have Faith:** Focus on Jesus. Eternal perspective; **I'm cupped in God's hands...**

**John 10:27** My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and **they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.** 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.**

- **Daniel knew his God**

**Daniel 11:32** [End times] ...the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

## **IV. Delivered from the Lion**

**Daniel 6:16** So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "**Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.**"<sup>17</sup> 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.

- **Signet ring seal:**
  1. King
  2. Lords
- Sealed that the purpose concerning Daniel would not be changed

18 Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. **Also his sleep went from him.**<sup>19</sup> Then the king arose **very early in the morning** and went in haste to the den of lions.

- **Daniel's Friend Darius the Mede:**
  1. Went home and fasted
  2. Sleep "went from him"
  3. Rose early and ran to the den of lions!

20 And when he came to the den, **he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel**. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

- **God whom you serve continually:** Influence of Daniel in view; i.e. consistency
- **Lamenting voice:** Used one time, Lit. pained, grieved, afflicted

**"...has your God been able to deliver you?"**

- **Deliver:** Lit. to peel or to liberate

***Do we trust that God is able in our current circumstance?***

**Ephesians 3:20** ...to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**Psalms 22:19** But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me! 20 Deliver Me from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog. 21 Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen!

- Is your God able to deliver **from the inevitable Daniel?**

21 Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because **I was found innocent** before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."

- **My God sent His Angel to "...shut the lions mouth"**

**1 Peter 5:6** ... humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

**1 John 3:8** He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

**Colossians 2:15** [Jesus disarmed] principalities and powers [read "the devil and demons"], He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. [At the resurrection]

"In any case he must have had a glorious night. What with the lions, and with angels all night to keep him company, he was spending the night-watches in grander style than Darius." [Spurgeon]

- **Daniel's claim:** I was innocent before you O king

## The Angel of the Lord surrounds those who fear *Him*

**Psalm 34:6** This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles.<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.<sup>8</sup> Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

- **The Angel of the Lord:**

1. Son of God
2. Pre-incarnate appearances of the Lord Jesus Christ
3. Pre-*Bethlehem-ic* appearances
4. Jesus of the Old testament

<b>Genesis 16</b>	Comfort to Hagar as she escapes to the desert from Abram's wife Sarai
<b>Genesis 18</b>	One of the 3 angels was "the" Angel of the Lord
<b>Exodus 3</b>	Voice from the burning bush
<b>Exodus 23</b>	God tells Israel that "His Angel" will go before them into the land
<b>Exodus 14</b>	Angel of Lord moves from front to back of Israel to deal with Pharaoh
<b>Numbers</b>	The Angel of the Lord stood in front of Balaam with drawn sword
<b>Judges 6</b>	The Angel of the Lord appears to Gideon
<b>2 Samuel 24</b>	Stands by the threshing floor commands pestilence to stop
<b>1 Kings 19</b>	Encourages Elijah with food as he runs from Jezebel
<b>2 Kings 19</b>	Strikes down 185,000 Assyrians; Israel's enemies.
<b>Daniel 3</b>	Fiery furnace. Three boys and One that resembles the Son of God!
<b>Zechariah 3</b>	High Priest stands before Him as Satan accuses the priest.

- **David knew Jesus as the Angel of the Lord.**

**Psalm 35:1** [Of David] Plead my cause, O Lord, with those who strive with me; Fight against those who fight against me.<sup>2</sup> Take hold of shield and buckler, And stand up for my help.<sup>3</sup> Also draw out the spear, And stop those who pursue me. Say to my soul, "I am your salvation."<sup>4</sup> Let those be put to shame and brought to dishonor Who seek after my life; Let those be turned back and brought to confusion Who plot my hurt.<sup>5</sup> Let them be like chaff before the wind, **And let the angel of the Lord chase them.**<sup>6</sup> Let their way be dark and slippery, And let the angel of the Lord pursue them.<sup>7</sup> For without cause they have hidden their net for me in a pit, Which they have dug without cause for my life.<sup>8</sup> Let destruction come upon him unexpectedly, And let his net that he has hidden catch himself; Into that very destruction let him fall.

- **Angel of the Lord:**

1. Not created but a messenger of the Father.
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Trinity

**Hebrews 1:6** ...when [God the Father] again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: **"Let all the angels of God worship Him."**... **8** But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions. <sup>10</sup> And: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.<sup>11</sup> They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; <sup>12</sup> Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail."<sup>13</sup> But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?

- **Abraham knew Jesus as the Angel of God**

1. Abraham told by God to sacrifice his only son [in God's eyes] whom he loves...
2. Immediate obedience: Fears God

**Genesis 22: 9** Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham! "So he said, "Here I am."12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you **fear God**, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." 13 Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided."15 Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, 16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— 17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." 19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

### **The Angel of the Lord surrounds those who fear *Him***

- How do we know if we fear God? Why was Daniel so confident:

**We know we fear God when we *do what He says***

**We know that we fear God when we are *aware of His presence***

- Love God. Love others. "God Centered" is being "Others focused"

*"I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."*

23 Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den.

- From "greatly displeased with himself" to "exceedingly glad" for Daniel!
- Commanded "who" to take Daniel out of the Lion's den"

23b So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, **because he believed in his God.**

**Hebrews 11:33** [Hall of Faith champions] Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions...

### **No injury was found on him because he believed in his God**

**Psalms 91:9** Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place,10 No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.12 In their hands

they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.<sup>13</sup> You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

- What about those who go through horrific suffering as they trust in the Lord

*"The man whose little sermon is 'repent' sets himself against his age, and will for the time being be battered mercilessly by the age whose moral tone he challenges. There is but one end for such a man—'off with his head! You had better not try to preach repentance until you have pledged your head to heaven.'" Joseph Parker*

**Daniel 3:16** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

**Ultimate deliverance is in the next life. Maybe Daniel saved from the lions teeth more for the king than Daniel?**

- **What about those who trust God and are not delivered in this life?**

**Hebrews 11: 35b** Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

- **Better resurrection:**
  1. Reward in Heaven
  2. Contrast from temporal torture to eternal bliss is unimaginable

**SUMMARY: Delivered from the Lion**

## V. Delightful Decree

- Deceitful decree crafted by a Satan empowered jealous mob
- Delightful decree crafted by a kind king

24 And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.

- **Kings Command:**
  1. Bring all of them
  2. Bring their families
  3. Cast them down into the den
- ALL their bones were broken before hitting the ground
- Poetic Justice;

**Psalm 7:14** [David] Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and

brings forth falsehood.15 He made a pit and dug it out, And has fallen into the ditch which he made.16 His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown.

25 Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.26 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.27 He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

- Good Mood! Bad guys gone...Now a Decree to the whole world
  1. Peace be multiplied
  2. You are commanded to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel
    - a) He is alive!
    - b) He is steadfast
    - c) He is eternal
    - d) His kingdom will not be destroyed [did he read chapter 2]
    - e) His rule over all will never end
    - f) He delivers and Rescues
    - g) He works signs and wonders [Daniel top Chaldean/Magi. Luke 2]

**The Role of Daniel** One of the titles given to Daniel was Rab-mag, the Chief of the Magi. His unusual career included being a principal administrator in two world empires--the Babylonian and the subsequent Persian Empire. When Darius appointed him, a Jew, over the previously hereditary Median priesthood, the resulting repercussions led to the plots involving the ordeal of the lion's den. Daniel apparently entrusted a Messianic vision (to be announced in due time by a "star") to a secret sect of the Magi for its eventual fulfillment. But first let's review some historical background. [<http://ldolphin.org/magi.html>] *Lambert Dolphin*

- h) He delivered my friend Daniel when I could not!
- i) Will the god of Daniel become the God of Darius?

28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

**Daniel walked in confidence because he feared God and did what God asked  
God huddles around those who fear Him**