

I. Intro

A. Series Overview: **Dan. 6:1-7**

¹It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; ²and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. ³Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. ⁵Then these men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.” ⁶Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, “O King Darius, live forever! ⁷All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. (Dan. 6:1-7)

B. Recap

1. Belshazzar lifted up his heart against the Lord.
 - a. Profaned the vessels that were in the House of the Lord.
2. As they were eating and drinking, the Handwriting appeared on the wall.
3. The Day that Humbled the Prideful, Exalted the Captive
(Dan. 5:29-6:3)
 - a. Belshazzar was slain, putting an end to the Babylonian Empire.
 - b. Daniel was exalted to be the 3rd ruler in the Kingdom.

- c. The Babylonian Kingdom was dismantled and the Mede-Persian empire was established. (**Dan. 6:1-3**)
 - i. Darius, the Mede-Persian king, set up a new government with 120 governors.
 - ii. Over those 120 governors, were three presidents.
 - iii. Daniel was one of the 3 presidents who supervised all the 120 governors in the empire.

II. Body

A. The Enemy's Plot On Prayer (Dan. 6:4-9)

⁴ Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. ⁵ Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God. (Dan. 6:4-5)

- 1. Because his enemies couldn't find anything Daniel was doing wrong, they decided to challenge the one thing he was doing right: Prayer.
- 2. Daniel's enemies approached the king with a stealth assault on prayer that would stroke the new king's ego, and indict Daniel.

⁶ Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! ⁷ All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸ Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." ⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction. (Dan. 6:6-9)

- a. Now, failure to show allegiance to Darius in this way was a sure death sentence.

B. The Predictable Posture Worshipers (Dan. 6:10-13)

¹⁰ When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. ¹¹ Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. (**Dan. 6:10-11**)

1. Easy to define Daniel's response as that of a defiant protestor.
 - a. Never do we find a rebellious, protesting tone in Daniel's history.
 - i. Even when Daniel refused to eat the king's delicacies, he **asked for permission** not to eat it.
2. The text explains that Daniel, in response to the biggest threat he'd ever experienced, did what he always did: Prayed.
 - a. It was his spiritual discipline..
3. He often opened the windows and prayed toward Jerusalem.
 - a. Interceding for Jerusalem.
4. By now, it had been exactly 70 years since Judah's capture and deportation to Babylon (who had now been conquered by the Mede-Persians).
 - a. I wonder if what we call protest, was Daniel's intercession for Jerusalem?
 - b. If so, while he prayed Daniel was certainly reminded of the prophetic words declared just years before by Jeremiah the prophet (**Jer. 29**).
5. Jeremiah 29 Excerpts
 - a. **Jer. 29:1:** ¹ These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.
 - b. **Jer. 29:4-7:** ⁴ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear

sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

c. **Jer. 29:10-14:** ¹⁰“For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

6. Daniel had no track record of insolence or protest.
 - a. But he certainly had a track record for intercession and seeking the Lord's face.
 - b. Imagine your commitment to prayer being so established that even your enemies knew that you would seek the Lord's face (even if it cost you your life)?

¹⁰ When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. ¹¹ Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. ¹² Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, “O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” The king answered and said, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” ¹³ Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.” (**Dan. 6:10-13**)

c. Accusation

- i. Disrespect/Venom: “One of the exiles from Judah.” (6:13a)

C. Only One Dependable Deliverer (Dan. 6:14-22)

- 1. Daniel actually had great respect for King Darius.
 - a. King Darius had great respect for Daniel.
 - b. It pained the king that he ever penned such a foolish law.

¹⁴ Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him.

¹⁵ Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.” ¹⁶ Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” (Dan. 6:14-16)

- 2. When Daniel was cast into the lion’s den, the king wasn’t angry. He was distressed.
 - a. Looked for a way to deliver Daniel.
 - i. But found no human way possible.
 - b. “May your God deliver you!”
- 3. Question: “Has the God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you?”

²⁰ As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” (Dan. 6:20)

- a. My God sent His Angel to shut the lion’s mouth.

²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! ²² My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.” (Dan. 6:21-22)

III. Conclusion: The church today has much to learn from Daniel.

- A. **The Enemy's Plot On Prayer**
- B. **The Predictable Posture**
- C. **Only One Dependable Deliverer**
 - i.