



Shining in Babylon
Study Guide
Daniel 6

Daniel 6 is the famous story of Daniel in the lion's den. What gave him such courage to face the lions? In our study this week, the premise is that courage comes to those who are prayerful, blameless, and full of faith! In other words, courage is something we can cultivate, so we no longer are as afraid of other things.

1. Share some of the fears that we commonly face- spiritual attacks, cultural trends, personal struggles...

Share of a time when fear took over and controlled you. What was that like? How were you able to overcome (if you did)?

2. Read Daniel 6:1-9 to set the stage for the story. Describe the setting and the conspiracy in your own words.

3. Read Daniel 6:10-13. Daniel could panic or protect himself, but instead he chose to continue his practice of praying towards Jerusalem 3x per day (It was a decree for the Jews in case of exile- 2 Chron. 6:38). Many of us would have chosen to cower and pray privately. What would that have reflected about Daniel's belief in the size of His God? Share times when we are hesitant to do or say something in our culture that is counter cultural.

4. Read Daniel 6:14-18. Notice how it is the King who ends up being trapped. When people make this world their primary home, they are simply trapped. Discuss.

5. Read Daniel 6:19-24. God chose to spare Daniel! What a miracle. Notice the two 'because' statements:

"...because I was found blameless..." (v. 22)

"...because he had trusted in God..." (v. 23)

Discuss this concept:

Courage comes to those who are prayerful, blameless, and full of faith!

What does it look like for us to:

- a. Prioritize prayer
- b. Have trusted people you can confess your sins for personal integrity.
- c. Confess any fear and lack of faith to God.

Message Outline

Lions

Prov. 30:30 "...lion, which is the mightiest..."

1 Peter 5:8 "...your adversary, the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking to devour."

Psalms 22:21a- "...save me from the mouth of the lion..."

Proverbs 28:1- "The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion."

Solution

Revelation 5:5- "...weep no more, behold the lion of the tribe of Judah...has conquered, ..."

Big Idea: The Fear of God Cancels all Other Fears.

I. Distinguished (v. 1-3)

It 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.

II. Conspiracy (v. 4-9)

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."

II. Conspiracy (v. 4-9) *continued*

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. ⁸Now, 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." ⁹Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.

III. Prayerful (v. 10-13)

¹⁰When 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. ¹¹Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God...

"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."

IV. The Powerless King (v. 14-18)

¹⁴Then 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. ¹⁵Then 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."

IV. The Powerless King (v. 14-18) *continued*

¹⁶Then 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!" ¹⁷And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

V. Blameless (v. 19-22)

¹⁹Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰As 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?" ²¹Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! ²²My 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."

VI. Full of Faith (v. 23-24)

²³ Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴ And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

Daniel 3:16-18

“O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

VII. Shining in “Babylon” (v. 25-28)

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: “Peace be multiplied to you. ²⁶ I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. ²⁷ He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.” ²⁸ So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

God is global, personal, eternal, sovereign, and imminent!

Big Idea: The Fear of God Cancels all Other Fears.

Signs that I fear God:

1. Prayerful
2. Blameless
3. Full of Faith

Personal Reflection

1. What lion of fear is holding me back?
2. What do I need to rearrange in my life to relentlessly pray?
3. Is there anything I need to confess to a trusted friend?
4. Do I lack faith in God? Confess that and ask for more faith.