

LifeGroup Questions
Based On: Daniel 6
March 11, 2018

Overview

Earlier this week I heard a kid refer to Daniel and the lion's den as "Daniel and the Lion's Denim." It is always fun when little ones do their best but still get the details wrong. The entire story would not have happened if Daniel had just compromised his faith.

King Darius had just taken over the land of the Babylonians. He needed to set up a government so he established 120 satraps (local officials) along with three administrators. One of these administrators was Daniel. It didn't take long until Daniel became the king's favorite. Out of jealousy the other satraps tried to catch Daniel doing something against the king. This was the third king Daniel had worked with. Each time he needed to establish his reputation. Because Daniel was a man of integrity the only avenue for getting him was through his faith.

In Daniel 6:7 it states that the "royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed." The whole proposal to the king started out with a lie. It was only the administrators and satraps that tried to get rid of Daniel. When you are trying to convince someone with a lie it is common to drag others in to help solidify your argument. It probably was only a handful of the 120 satraps that even knew what was going on. Most of them would have been spread throughout the country ruling and collecting taxes for the king. During this time period it is highly unlikely that all of them would have come together to create a scheme against Daniel.

King Darius issued his decree that everyone for 30 days needed to pray to him. The king was not necessarily setting himself up as a god, but was acting as an intercessor for the people to their many gods. Daniel could have chosen to just not pray for 30 days and stayed out of trouble. He was unwilling to compromise even a little. He had a regular routine and place to pray. It was his faithfulness that led him to the lion's den.

God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions. He could have just made the lions sleep all night, but to further encourage Daniel he sent an angel that was visible to him. Daniel didn't just survive the den, but got to spend the night with an angel. It is amazing how in the worst of moments God can provide way more than what we need.

Bible Study: Daniel 6

1. Read Daniel 6. In Daniel 6:7 the original conspirators drag other groups into their scheme. Why do you think the original administrators and satraps felt the need to drag other groups into their conspiracy against Daniel? In what ways have you seen this practice occur when people are being deceitful?
2. Daniel was willing to disobey the law of the land to remain faithful. Discuss the intersecting of faith and civil disobedience. When is it necessary to disobey the law to maintain your faith? How do you reconcile this with Romans 13:1-2?
3. Daniel had a disciplined prayer life. He prayed three times a day no matter what. I wonder how many of his prayers were for him to return to Jerusalem. He was a teenager when put in exile and how he is in his eighties. Daniel's faithfulness was not dependent upon answered prayers. How is your faith impacted when a prayer goes unanswered or isn't answered the way you wanted?

4. Read Daniel 6:20. King Darius ran to the den the next day and called out in an anguished voice to Daniel. The fact that he ran to the den demonstrates he had hope for Daniel. The anguish in his voice shows that his hope was frail. What can you do individually and as a group to maintain hope even in the worst of circumstances? Discuss a time when you wanted to give up hope.

5. King Darius issued another decree to all the lands he has conquered in which they are to fear and hold in reverence the God of Daniel. The whole bad situation against Daniel ended up being used for God's glory. How have you seen a bad situation be used to further God's kingdom?