



EXILES

LIFE IN BABYLON



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1-3 Darius reorganized his kingdom. He appointed one hundred twenty governors to administer all the parts of his realm. Over them were three vice-regents, one of whom was Daniel. The governors reported to the vice-regents, who made sure that everything was in order for the king. But Daniel, brimming with spirit and intelligence, so completely outclassed the other vice-regents and governors that the king decided to put him in charge of the whole kingdom.
(Daniel 6:1-3 Msg)

4-5 The vice-regents and governors got together to find some old scandal or skeleton in Daniel's life that they could use against him, but they couldn't dig up anything. He was totally exemplary and trustworthy. They could find no evidence of negligence or misconduct. So they finally gave up and said, "We're never going to find anything against this Daniel unless we can cook up something religious. (Daniel 6:4-5 Msg)

6-7 The vice-regents and governors conspired together and then went to the king and said, “King Darius, live forever! We’ve convened your vice-regents, governors, and all your leading officials, and have agreed that the king should issue the following decree: For the next thirty days no one is to pray to any god or mortal except you, O king. Anyone who disobeys will be thrown into the lions’ den. (Daniel 6:6-7 Msg)

8 “Issue this decree, O king, and make it unconditional, as if written in stone like all the laws of the Medes and the Persians.” 9 King Darius signed the decree.

(Daniel 6:8-9 Msg)

God's Faithfulness
should cause us to STAND

“10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:10-12)

“If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.”

(Isaiah 7:9)

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’” (Matthew 25:41)

“We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

(2 Corinthians 5:10)



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10 When Daniel learned that the decree had been signed and posted, he continued to pray just as he had always done. His house had windows in the upstairs that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he knelt there in prayer, thanking and praising his God. (Daniel 6:10 Msg)

11-12 The conspirators came and found him praying, asking God for help. They went straight to the king and reminded him of the royal decree that he had signed. “Did you not,” they said, “sign a decree forbidding anyone to pray to any god or man except you for the next thirty days? And anyone caught doing it would be thrown into the lions’ den?” “Absolutely,” said the king. “Written in stone, like all the laws of the Medes and Persians.” (Daniel 6:11-12 Msg)

13 Then they said, “Daniel, one of the Jewish exiles, ignores you, O king, and defies your decree. Three times a day he prays.”¹⁴ At this, the king was very upset and tried his best to get Daniel out of the fix he’d put him in. He worked at it the whole day long.
(Daniel 6:13 Msg)

15 But then the conspirators were back:
“Remember, O king, it’s the law of the
Medes and Persians that the king’s
decree can never be changed.”16 The
king caved in and ordered Daniel
brought and thrown into the lions’ den.
But he said to Daniel, “Your God, to
whom you are so loyal, is going to get
you out of this.” (Daniel 6:15-16 Msg)

17 A stone slab was placed over the opening of the den. The king sealed the cover with his signet ring and the signet rings of all his nobles, fixing Daniel's fate.

(Daniel 6:17 Msg)

God's Faithfulness
should cause us to **KNEEL**



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“Kneeling Prayers”



19-20 At daybreak the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. As he approached the den, he called out anxiously, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve so loyally, saved you from the lions?" (Daniel 6:19-20 Msg)

21-22 “O king, live forever!” said Daniel. “My God sent his angel, who closed the mouths of the lions so that they would not hurt me. I’ve been found innocent before God and also before you, O king. I’ve done nothing to harm you.” 23 When the king heard these words, he was happy. He ordered Daniel taken up out of the den. When he was hauled up, there wasn’t a scratch on him. He had trusted his God. (Daniel 6:21-23 Msg)

25-27 King Darius published this proclamation to every race, color, and creed on earth: Peace to you! Abundant peace! I decree that Daniel's God shall be worshiped and feared in all parts of my kingdom. He is the living God, world without end. His kingdom never falls. His rule continues eternally. He is a savior and rescuer. (Daniel 6:25-27 Msg)

He performs astonishing miracles in heaven and on earth. He saved Daniel from the power of the lions.²⁸ From then on, Daniel was treated well during the reign of Darius, and also in the following reign of Cyrus the Persian.

(Daniel 6:27-28 Msg)

God's Faithfulness
should cause us to REST

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”(Matthew 11:28-30)

“Our hearts are restless until we find our rest in thee.”

Augustine



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