

Daniel In The Lion's Den In Chapter 6

Aramaic¹

Dan. 6:1 It seemed good to Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, that they would be in charge of the whole kingdom,

Dan. 6:2 and over them three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one). Thus, these satraps were accountable to them, so that that the king would not suffer loss.

Cyrus the Great²

559-529 B.C.

Conquered Babylon in 539 B.C.

Darius the Mede³

539-530 B.C.

Dan. 6:3 This Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps, because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.

Dan. 6:4 But the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs. However, they could find no ground of accusation or *evidence of corruption*, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was *to be found* in him.

Dan. 6:5 Then these men said, "We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him with regard to the law of his God (בְּדֵת אֱלֹהֵיהֶם) (?)."

Dan. 6:6 So these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows, "King Darius, live forever!

Dan. 6:7 "All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects, the satraps, the high officials, and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions' den.

Dan. 6:8 "Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked."

Dan. 6:9 Therefore, King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.

Dan. 6:10 When Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house. In his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem. He continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.

Dan. 6:11 These men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God.

Dan. 6:12 Subsequently, they approached and spoke before the king about the king's

¹ Daniel 1:1-2:4 is written in Hebrew, along with 8:1-12:13. The rest of Daniel, 2:5-7:28 is written in Aramaic.

² Babylonian Persian (Mede) Greek Syrian Greek Egyptian Greek Roman M.E. Messianic

³ This is not the same as Darius the Great, i.e., Darius Hystaspis, who ruled Persia from 522-485 B.C. Apparently, there is no explicit evidence outside the Bible for this man, but he is most likely a "king" of Median descent, who was appointed ruler of the Babylonian region by Cyrus the Great, much like Herod the Great and his sons who were appointed by the Roman Senate and Emperors as rulers of the area of Israel and granted the title "king." The word *dara* means king in Avestan Persian, allowing us to conclude that Darius was an honorific title much like even the Hebrew Messiah.

injunction, “Did you not sign an injunction that any man who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, is to be cast into the lions’ den?”

The king replied, “The statement is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked.”

Dan. 6:13 So they answered and spoke before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but he keeps making his petition three times a day.”

Dan. 6:14 As soon as the king heard this statement, he was deeply distressed and set *his* mind on delivering Daniel. Even until sunset, he kept exerting himself to rescue him.

Dan. 6:15 Afterwards, these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed.”

Dan. 6:16 Consequently, the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions’ den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, “Your God, whom you constantly serve, will Himself deliver you.”

Dan. 6:17 A stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed in regard to Daniel.

Dan. 6:18 Then, the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him. In addition, his sleep fled from him.

Dan. 6:19 When the king arose at dawn, at the break of day, he went in haste to the lions’ den.

Dan. 6:20 As he came near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?”

Dan. 6:21 Then Daniel spoke to the king, “O king, live forever!

Dan. 6:22 “My God sent His angel (שְׁלַח מַלְאָכָה) (?) and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him. Also, toward you, O king, I have committed no crime.”

Dan. 6:23 Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Dan. 6:24 The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they cast them, their children, and their wives into the lions’ den. They had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

Dan. 6:25 Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations, and *men of every* language, who were living in all the land, “May your peace abound!

Dan. 6:26 “I make a decree—that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel.

For He is the living God and enduring forever,

And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.

And His dominion *will be* forever.

Dan. 6:27 “He delivers, rescues, and performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth,
Who has *also* delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Dan. 6:28 Thus, this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of
Cyrus the Persian.⁴

Cyrus the Great ⁵	559-529 B.C.
Conquered Babylon in 539 B.C.	
Darius the Mede ⁶	539-530 B.C.

⁴ [Expositor’s Bible Commentary – It would have been during this time that Daniel would have written and published this bood, which would be be about 532 B.C.]

⁵ Babylonian Persian (Mede) Greek Syrian Greek Egyptian Greek Roman M.E. Messianic

⁶ This is not the same as Darius the Great, i.e., Darius Hystaspis, who ruled Persia from 522-485 B.C. Apparently, there is no explicit evidence outside the Bible for this man, but he is most likely a “king” of Median descent, who was appointed ruler of the Babylonian region by Cyrus the Great, much like Herod the Great and his sons who were appointed by the Roman Senate and Emperors as rulers of the area of Israel and granted the title “king.” The word *dara* means king in Avestan Persian, allowing us to conclude that Darius was an honorific title much like even the Hebrew Messiah.