

In the shadow of Babylon, where disobedience to God was the price of survival, Daniel stood defiant. His unwavering faith, his commitment to a higher law, painted him as a rebel in the eyes of peers. He refused to compromise his convictions and for this act of social disobedience, he was sentenced to a fate worse than death – the lion's den. Let's not just see this ancient account as a mere children's Bible story, but as adults let's grapple with its timeless message. For in the echo of Daniel's courage, we hear a call to examine our own lives and our own willingness to stand against the tide of godlessness, even when the cost is steep. In a world that often demands conformity, how do we find the strength to remain true to our God? Let's turn to Daniel 6 and examine this challenging passage.

1. Daniel's Enemies Conspire Against Him (vv. 1-9)
  - a. Daniel's unwavering devotion to God became the very tool his enemies use to ensnare him. | 1 Pet 3:14-16; 4:12-16; 5:9-10
2. Daniel Accused of Praying (vv. 10-11)
  - a. Daniel could have complied with, adapted to, or evaded the statute.
  - b. Instead, he continued his prayer habit. | 1 Kgs 8:46-53; Dan 9:1-19
    - i. What compelled him to publicly pray, knowing it would bring him to the lion's den?
      1. Daniel chose public courage over private compromise. | Mat 10:32-33
      2. A believer has an obligation to disobey immoral laws. | Rom 13:1-7; cf. Exd 1:15-20; Jos 2:1-21; 1 Kgs 18:2-4; Dan 3:1-30; Act 4:19-20; 5:29
3. Daniel in the Den and Darius in Distress (vv. 12-18)
  - a. Darius, reluctantly sealed Daniel's fate. | Dan 1:5, 8-16; 2:12-23; Est 8:3-14; Mrk 6:14-29
4. Daniel's Deliverance and His Enemies Destruction (vv. 19-24)
  - a. Darius found Daniel unscathed.
    - i. We dare not presume that God will always keep the righteous from suffering, but He will always deliver us, whether in life or in death. | Dan 3:16-18; Php 1:18b-26
    - ii. Note the connection to Jesus: Even a stone-sealed den of death couldn't thwart God's rescue of His innocent servant. | Mat 27:57-28:10
  - b. The pit Daniel's enemies planned for him became their own grave. | Psa 54; Pro 11:8; 21:18
5. The King's Decree and Epilogue (vv. 25-28)
  - a. Impacted by Daniel's miraculous rescue, Darius decrees the exclusive worship of Daniel's God. | cf. Dan 2:47; 3:28-29; 4:1-3, 34-37; Mat 2:1-12

Daniel dared to be different, he dared to challenge the status quo. It's a story that speaks to the heart of what it means to believe, to live with integrity, to choose courage over comfort. And it's an account that beckons us to ask ourselves: When the lions roar, will we cower in fear, or will we take a stand in faith? When the lions roar, let our prayers rise, that God's glory may fill the earth (Psa 57:1-6).