

## SERVING THE LIVING GOD

This lesson will teach us that God is not only the God of the living but also the living God.

“I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. He is not the God of the dead but the **God of the living**.” (Matt.22:32; Rom.4:12)

“Daniel, servant of the **living God**.” (Dan.6:20) “I (Darius) issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel, ‘for He is the **living God** and He endures forever; His kingdom will not be destroyed, His dominion will never end.’” (Dan.6:26)

We will begin by studying Dan.6:1-28 by the following seven point homiletical outline. It is interesting that Daniel 6 is conversational narrative (a narrator, ruling court, king Darius, and Daniel).

- Daniel 6:1-3 Daniel is promoted by grace as a servant of the living God.
- Daniel 6:4 -9 Daniel's enemies are opposed to his serving the living God.
- Daniel 6:10-14 Daniel's faith in the living God is declared to violate the law.
- Daniel 6:15-18 Daniel is thrown into the lion's den.
- Daniel 6:19-23 Daniel is delivered from the lion's den by the living God.
- Daniel 6:24 Daniel's enemies are thrown into the lion's den.
- Daniel 6:25-28 Daniel is promoted by grace as a servant of the living God.

Now we examine the specific details of Daniel's faith both inside and outside the lion's den by the following six homiletical points taken from our lesson text (6:16-23). Actually Daniel was in a figurative lion's den before he was thrown into a literal lion's den.

- Daniel 6:16 Sentence of Daniel
- Daniel 6:17 Securing of the lion's den
- Daniel 6:18 Sleepless night of King Darius
- Daniel 6:19-20 Servant of the living God
- Daniel 6:21-22 Shut the mouths of lions
- Daniel 6:23 Safe from harm and evil

<b>This lesson will study FOUR aspects of Serving the Living God.</b>
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**1. It is interesting that these ferocious man eating lions reacted differently to Daniel than to Daniel's enemies in the same lion's den (Daniel 6:18-24).**

According to Daniel 6, what made the different?

**The living God intervened in one and not in the other:** “My God sent His angel (singular) and shut the lions' mouths (plural) and they have not harmed me.” (Daniel 6:22) “And they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.” (Daniel 6:24b)

Explain how essences of God could be applied to understand Daniel's experience in the lion's den.

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|-----------------|--------------------|
| (O) Omnipresent | (S) Sovereign      |
| (O) Omnipotent  | (+R) Righteous     |
| (O) Omniscient  | (+L) Love          |
| (I) Immutable   | (E.L) Eternal Life |
| (V) Veracity    | (H) Holy           |

**2. The ruling court of which Daniel was a member turned on him because of his grace promotions by faith in the living God (Dan.6:1-9).**

Like Joseph as a slave in Egypt, Daniel was being promoted in a foreign land by the grace of the living God by catching the attention of the authority (Dan.6:3; Gen.39:2, 20).

The enemies of Daniel tried to find some discrepancies in his life or work but were unable (Dan.6:4). They probably thought everyone has some secret or flaw that can be exploited. The only thing they could find out about Daniel was that he was a servant of the living God: "Then these men said, 'We shall not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God.'" (Dan.6:5)

**3. Daniel's reaction to the religious persecution regarding his faith in the living God was to continue serving the living God.**

"**Now when** Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open towards Jerusalem); and he **continued** kneeling on his knees three times a day, **praying and giving thanks** before his God, **as he had been doing previously.**" (Dan.6:10; Mark 11:22-24)

Did Daniel do this to bribe God to let him live (look at me, God)? I think Daniel's attitude was like Paul's - "According to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or death. For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil.1:20-21)

Daniel continued his walk with God because his soul had a thirst for the living God: "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?" (Ps.42:1-2)

**4. King Darius found himself in quite a dilemma between law and love (Dan. 6:13-18).**

Daniel's cause of promotion in the King's court had now become a crime worthy of death.

The King had been conned by the enemies of Daniel as well as by the enemies of the King's law. "Then 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.6:16)

"How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works **to serve the living God.**" (Heb.9:14; Rom.9:26)

"Then the king arose with the dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions den. And when he had come 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, who you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?' (Dan.6:19-20; Luke 1:37-38)

"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before him; and also toward you, O King, I have committed no crime.' 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.6:22-23)

**"So Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian." (6:28)**