



Dare TO Be Satisfied

DANIEL 6

Lions, ~~Tigers~~, & Bears

- A best-known Bible story.
- Conflict between good guys and bad guys, between good and evil.
- Tension builds; suspense brings sleeplessness.
- God shows up; surprising resolution.
- The story of your life, too.
- What is worth everything you have? What would satisfy?



Daniel 6:1-3, NIV

¹ It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, ² with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. ³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.



Daniel 6:4-5, NIV

⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."



Daniel 6:6-7, NIV

⁶ So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! ⁷ The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den.



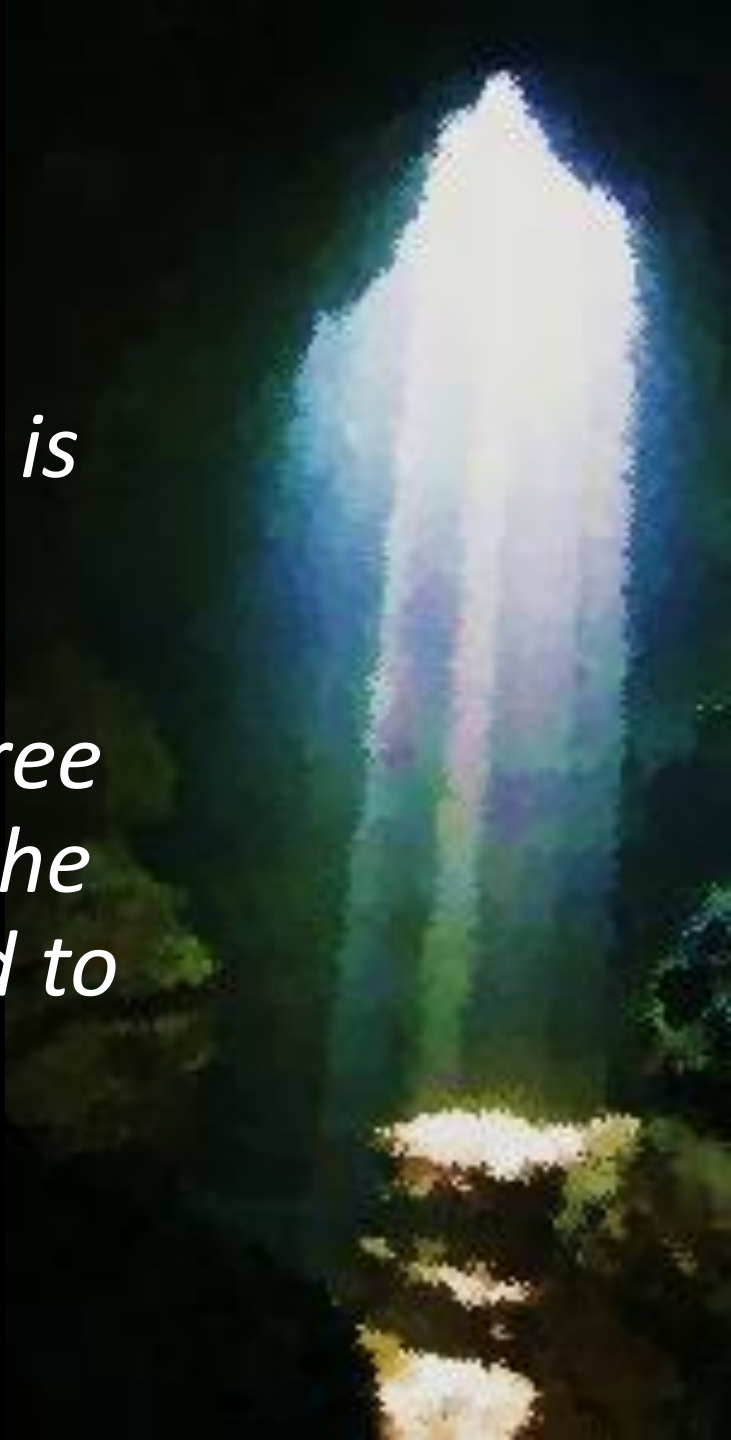
Daniel 6:8-10, NIV

⁸ Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” ⁹ So King Darius put the decree in writing. ¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.



Daniel 6:13-14, NIV

¹³ Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.” ¹⁴ When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.



Daniel 6:15-16, NIV

¹⁵ Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.”

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”



Daniel 6:19-20, NIV

¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"



Daniel 6:21-23, NIV

²¹ Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.



Daniel 6:28, NIV

²⁸ So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.



Each chapter of Daniel asks a question about God—and myself

- Dan 1—Is God **here**? *defile themselves—implies stained before God.*
- Dan 2—Does God **reveal**?
No one can reveal it except the gods, and they do not live among men.
- Dan 3—Can God **rescue**?
Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?



Each chapter of Daniel asks a question about God—and myself

- Dan 4—Does God **rule**? *He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"*
- Dan 5—Does God **judge**? *God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.*



Each chapter of Daniel asks a question about God—and myself

- Dan 6—Is God **enough**? *Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.*



Nebuchadnezzar – 605-563 BC



Evil-Merodach – 562-560 BC



Neriglissar—560-556

Labashi-Marduk—556

Nabonidus – 556-539 BC; weds Neb's daughter



Belshazzar – co-regent in Babylon (Neb's grandson)

Darius the Mede—539 BC

Daniel Factoid

- Nabonidus, Belshazzar, Cyrus—well attested in archaeology, but no 60 year-old Darius. Darius I is younger and reigns later.
- “Dara” means ‘king,’ ‘royal one.’ “Darius” may be a title, not a proper name—like Pharoah, Caesar, Tsar, Emperor.
- Gubaru was made ruler over Babylon by Cyrus. Darius = Gubaru?



SATISFIED—despite opposition

- Daniel would be around 83-85 yrs. old by now. He has been away from Judah nearly 70 yrs. (see Dan 9:2).

Q: What did Daniel get for seven decades of commitment?

A: Abundant proof that God was enough—**friendship with God.**



SATISFIED—despite opposition

- Daniel is perceived to be a threat.
- Daniel is also singled out because of his ethnicity.



Stuart Briscoe

*“He who raiseth his head
above the crowd
inviteth the tomato.”*



SATISFIED—despite opposition

- Daniel is perceived to be a threat.
- Daniel is also singled out because of his ethnicity.
- The events of Dan 6 unfold over time. A thorough investigation of his conduct in office and private life is implied. Daniel must die!
- Problems in our culture are first problems of the heart.



SATISFIED—despite opposition

- Problems in our culture are first problems of the heart.



Daniel 6:8-10, NIV

⁸ Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” ⁹ So King Darius put the decree in writing.



Daniel 6:8-10, NIV

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.



SATISFIED—by divine friendship

Daniel's life pattern:

- Prays three times daily.
- Is grateful continually.
- Asks God for help specifically.



SATISFIED—by divine friendship

Daniel's life pattern:

- Obeys faithfully (1 Kgs 8:48-49 specifies pray toward Jeru).
- Serves with integrity, excellence (see Darius' efforts to save Dan).



1 Kings 8:48-49, NIV

⁴⁸ and if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies who took them captive, and pray to you toward the land you gave their ancestors, toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name;



1 Kings 8:48-49, NIV

*⁴⁹ then from heaven, your dwelling place,
hear their prayer and their plea, and uphold
their cause.*



SATISFIED—by divine friendship

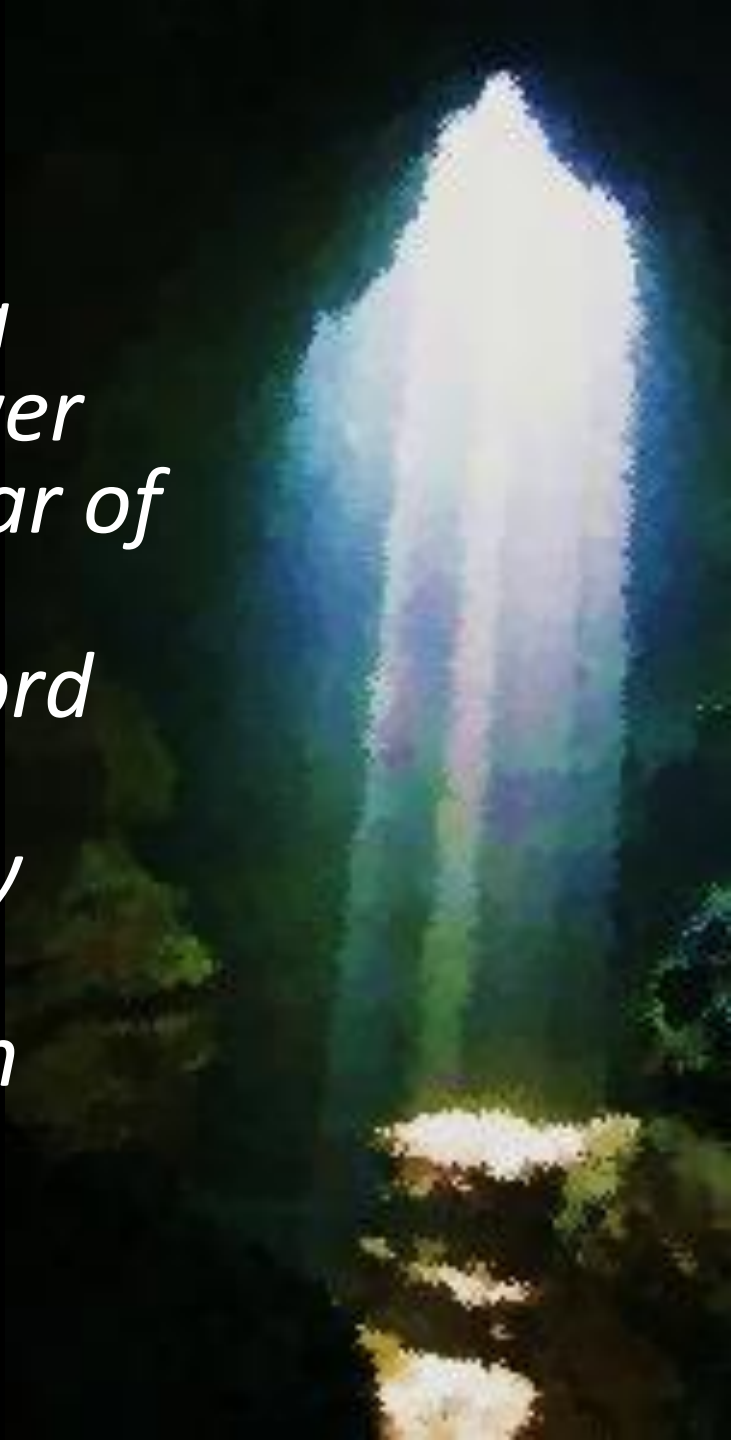
What would Daniel pray for?

- We know that Daniel had the scroll of Jeremiah (see Dan 9:2) as a guide for his captivity.



Daniel 9:1-3, NIV

⁹ In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom— ² in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. ³ So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.



Jeremiah 27:22; 29:7, NIV

22 “They will be taken to Babylon and there they will remain until the day I come for them,” declares the Lord. “Then I will bring them back and restore them to this place.”

.... 7 “Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”



SATISFIED—by submission

- People will be people.
- God will be God.
- I will be God's child, God's servant.
- Darius: "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"
- No "creative compromise" to comply with God's law & the law of the Medes & Persians. Lions!



2 Corinthians 1:5, NIV

For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.



John 16:33, NIV

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”



SATISFIED—by celebration

- “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”—the very thing Darius could not do.
- “O King, live forever!”—a customary address or an invitation?
- He is the living God (not fake!).



SATISFIED—by celebration

- Praying and seeing answers to prayer fuels our gratitude and our worship.
- Our God is the living God.
- But what “lions” do we face today? Surely nothing as dramatic as Daniel!



Matthew 5:12-13, NIV

¹² *And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

¹³ *And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'*



1 Peter 5:8-9, NIV

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.



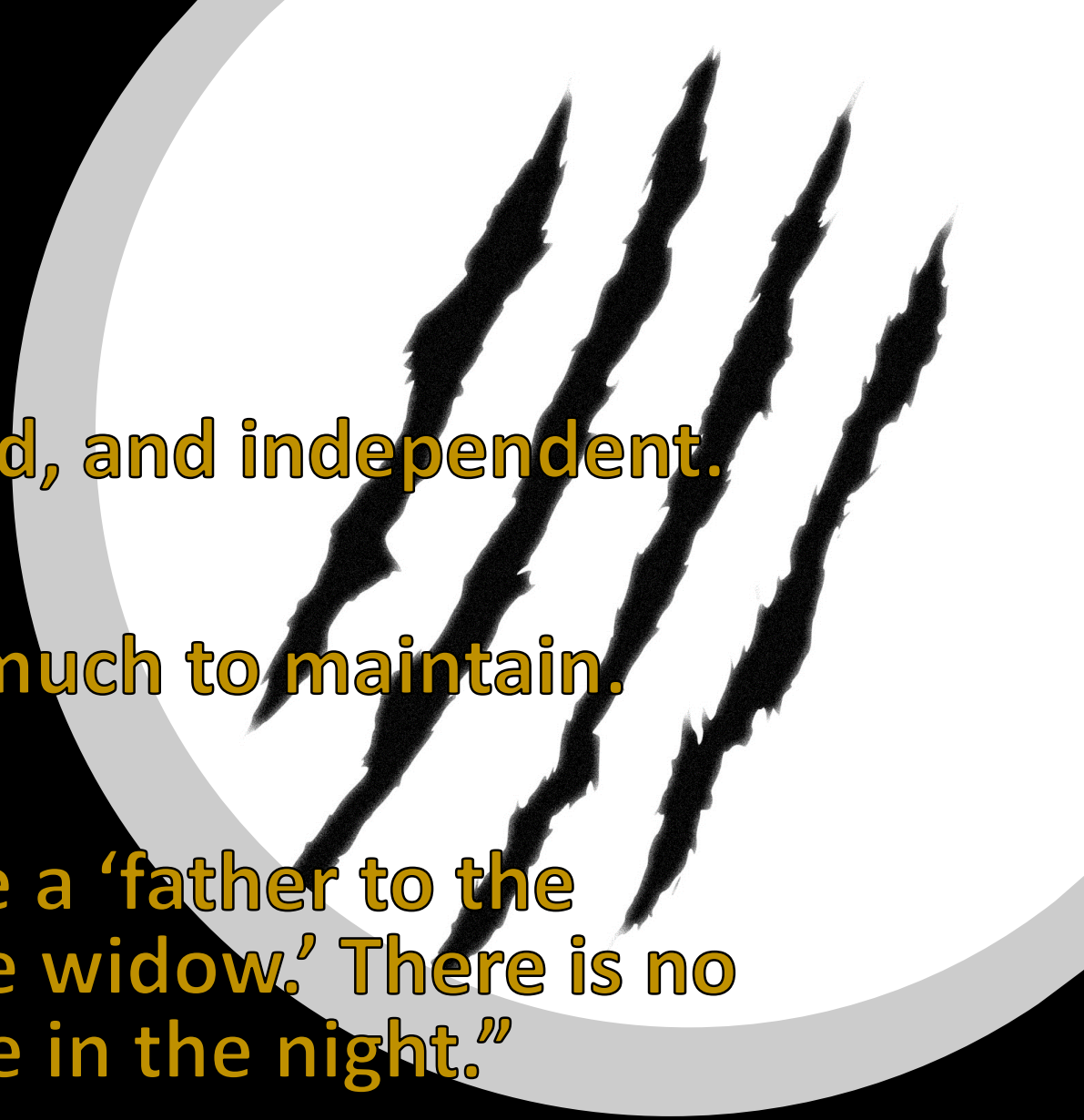
SATISFIED—by celebration

- Praying and seeing answers to prayer fuels our gratitude and our worship.
- Our God is the living God.
- But what “lions” do we face today? Surely nothing as dramatic as Daniel!!???
- **Our celebrations may be solitary.**



*Life was going so well
Then the lions came ...*

- The kids were raised, married, and independent.
- Cancer took her husband.
- The house was too big, too much to maintain.
- Her test said, "Lymphoma."
- "You promised you would be a 'father to the orphan and a husband to the widow.' There is no else here when I hear a noise in the night."
- Is God enough?



Daniel 6:10, NIV

Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

When everything changes ...
God doesn't change.

