Daniel Chapter 6:1-28

Sources: Chuck Smith
NKJV Study Bible
Throughtheword.org

The Lions Den:

Scene Set Up:

Since Daniel was about 15 years old in 605 B.C. when the Babylonians brought him as a captive to Babylon, and since the events in Dan. 6 most likely took place in the second or third year after the Mido-Persian conquest of Babylon in 539 B.C.

Daniel would have been Approximately 82 years old when he was thrown to the lions.

The Plot Against Daniel

Daniel 6:1-3

1. It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; 2. and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. 3. Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. '

(Satraps: Governor's over the entire Kingdom.)

This in itself was remarkable seeing that Daniel was a jew who was captured as a slave, but found so much favor in Babylon that he was placed in charge of all the wisemen

(**Reference - Daniel 2:48** Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.)

See normally when a king was defeated that would mean that the new King would get rid of the whole regime and start a new, but this wasn't what happened in Daniels case. New King over the Kingdom, But the same Daniel and he hasn't missed a step (Nothing had changed for Daniel, why was Daniel so distinguished over and above all the other Governors and Satraps? The excellent spirt with in him (The Holy Spirit) which was from God.

Explnation 6:3
Daniel then proved to be a superlative administrator because of his excellent spirt Described in:

Daniel 5:12
12. Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar, now let Daniel be called, and he will give the interpretation.

So now Daniel was found number one because in him they could find no charge or fault.

Daniel 6:4-5
4. So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. 5. Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.”'

(**Reference Ecclesiastes 4:4**) 4. Again, I saw that for all toil and every skillful work a man is envied by his neighbor. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Explnation 6:4-5
The king’s choice of Daniel created jealousy among the other court officials as always did in the past, and they wished to denounce Daniel. But since Daniel was both diligent and honest In his work, they could find no **error or fault** in him.
Therefore, they sought to trap him in religious matters.

Daniel 6:6-9
6. So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: “King Darius, live forever! 7. All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. 8. Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.” 9. Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

References:

Psalms 59:3

For look, they lie in wait for my life; The mighty gather against me, Not for my transgression nor for my sin, O Lord.

Psalms 62:4

They only consult to cast him down from his high position; They delight in lies; They bless with their mouth, But they curse inwardly. Selah

Psalms 64:2-6

2. Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, From the rebellion of the workers of iniquity, 3. Who sharpen their tongue like a sword, And bend their bows to shoot their arrows—bitter words, 4. That they may shoot in secret at the blameless; Suddenly they shoot at him and do not fear. 5. They encourage themselves in an evil matter; They talk of laying snares secretly; They say, "Who will see them?" 6. They devise iniquities: "We have perfected a shrewd scheme." Both the inward thought and the heart of man are deep.

Explnation 6:6-8

When these corrupt officials approached the king, they falsely claimed that **all** government officials supported the religious decree, they made it sound as if Daniel too agreed.

Darius, his role was to unite the Babylonian realm under authority of the new Persian empire.

The **Law of the Medes and Persians** being irrevocable means: Not to be revoked or recalled, Unable to be repealed or annulled making it unalterable. Thus removing any and all exceptions.

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel 6:10-15

10. Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. 11. Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. 12. And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." 13. So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you,

O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day." Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed." 14. And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him. 15. Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

References:

Psalms 55:17

'Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.'

Daniel 3:12

There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."

Explnation 6:10-13

Even though the law prohibiting prayer has gone into effect, Daniel still prayed with his windows open **toward Jerusalem**. Jewish people in exile always pray toward Jerusalem *Even Today. Just as Solomon had instructed in his prayer of dedication for the temple

1Kings 8:44-49

44. When Your people go out to battle against their enemy, wherever You send them, and when they pray to the Lord toward the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name, 45. then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause. 46. "When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near; 47. yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of those who took them captive, saying, 'We have sinned and done wrong, we have committed wickedness'; 48. and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name: 49. then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause,

Explnation 6:10-13 Cont.
Daniel prayed not out of rebellion toward the king but out of obedience to the greater command of God. As the apostles would later say.

Acts 5:29
'But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men. '

You see so great was Daniel’s reputation and spiritual commitment that even his enemies knew he would obey God rather than bow to the kings edict.
Edict meaning: and authoritative proclamation or command.

Explnation 6:14
The king was very displeased not because Daniel had defied him but because he came to understand that the true purpose of the law was to trap Daniel, whom he respected.

Daniel 6:16-17
16. So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.” 17. Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

Reference:
Matthew 27:62-66
62. On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, 63. saying, “Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise.’ 64. Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ So the last deception will be worse than the first.” 65. Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how.” 66. So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.'

Explnation 6:16
The Persians used mutilation by lions as one of several brutal forms of execution. It was Daniel’s continual service to God that caused him to be cast into the lions den.

Now the king hoped that this devotion would cause God to deliver Daniel. He will deliver is just a jussive verb, which could also be translated, "may He deliver." The word den can be also translated as "pit."

Daniel 6:18-20
18. Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him. 19. Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions.
20. And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

Explnation 6:18
King Darius **spent the night fasting** and presumably praying for Daniel.
We also see that his sleep went from him, (Meaning) He could not sleep.

(Remembering what God has delivered them from before)
Daniel 3:17
17. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.

Daniel 6:21-23
21. Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! 22. My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."
23. Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.

Reference:
Hebrews 11:33
who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

Explnation 6:22-23
We see that God uses angels to accomplish His purposes, including protection of His people

References:
Hebrews 1:14
Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.'

Psalms 91:11
For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.

Explnation 6:22-23 Cont.
As I stated above how He had done for Daniels's three friends in the fiery furnace many years earlier (Dan 3:25) as on that occasion, this may have been an angel or even the Angel of the Lord
(i.e., a reincarnate appearance of the Messiah)

Daniel was not claiming perfection in declaring his innocence before God. Rather, Daniel claimed that his allegiance to God, not his works, that brought Him deliverance from the lions.

Daniel 6:24
24. And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions—them, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.

Explnation 6:24
Although executing family members is exceptionally cruel, this was a common Persian practice according to Herodotus,
who was a greek historian from 484? - 425? B.C.

Daniel 6:25-27
25. Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. 26. I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end. 27. He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Explnation 6:25-27
Just as King Nebuchadnezzar had done before him, King Darius issued a decrees to all people, nations and languages declaring praise to the God of Daniel. Darius recognized the greatness of God: that He is living and eternal, sovereign, all-powerful, and able to deliver His people.

Nevertheless, it is unlikely that Darius came to saving faith here. He instead accepted the God of Israel as just one of many gods.

Daniel 6:28
'So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.'

Explnation 6:28

Some maintain that this verse draws a distinction between **Darius** and **Cyrus**, such that Darius could only be identified with Subaru and not with Cyrus the Persian. But it is also possible to translate this verse as “during the reign of Darius, even Cyrus the Persian.

Supporting Scriptures:

Ezra 4:5
and hired counselors against them to frustrate their purpose all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Ezra 6:14
So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

So you be the judge.

Closing comments:
It seems as though Daniels faith was the only way they thought they would stop him, but once again his faith and conviction to our Lord God was unmatched and God rewarded Daniel for it as he always did in the past.

As we look at our own lives (as for me) when I stay faithful to God almighty he always rewards me, and those times (Which are more than I care to mention) that I think I can resolve and situation, problem or overcome something on my own. That’s when the Lord is probably shaking His head and hoping that I will reach out to Him and castaway my Pride and ask for His help and guidance.
I thank you Father for being so patient and understanding. Amen.