

## DANIEL 6: DELIVERANCE



A stylized **D** cave (**Daniel**) holds **6** lions wishing to harm Daniel. An angel brings **deliverance** by holding the lions back.

+ Christians at times find themselves at conflict between the law of the country they live in, or the business for which they work. These conflicts may be extremely difficult and can be quite costly for the believer. Daniel was in mortal danger by the plot of his enemies who sought to pit his allegiance to God against allegiance to King Darius.

+ The Gospel does not assure us that as we stay faithful to Christ we will not suffer loss. We may be called upon by God to forfeit perceived good things rather than deny the Savior. Early Christians were willing to even lay down their lives rather than oppose the Gospel of Christ. It should not surprise us that we will be opposed for our faith, but rather we should expect that at some point our faith will be put in opposition to the culture of our country or employer.

+ Daniel *kept up* his prayer regimen in the face of persecution. Note the phrase, "... just as he had done before" (v.10). Those who have no fierce commitment to God, who are not wholeheartedly committed to worship and prayer, crumble under trials. It is the

committed, consistent worshiper and person of prayer who has the spiritual fortitude to continue in the face of threats and accusations. The idea that a person will get tough and faithful to God in the bad times is a delusion. If one is not already faithful, most likely persecution will scare them away rather than embolden them.

+ Sometimes God wishes to save his servants through miraculous deliverance, while other times they are called to forfeit their earthly lives. We must trust God's judgment in this matter. Our faith is not dependent upon whether we escape persecution, but dependent upon God's promise of eternal life. Until the appearing of Christ again we all will die one way or another. Escaping martyrdom is only a temporary reprieve against physical death, giving us more time to testify about the Lord. No matter how we die, we must die in faithfulness to Christ.

+ Daniel made out pretty good in the end, "So, Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian" (Daniel 6:28). There seems to be a mysterious vector downward or upward to our lives in terms of "success". To prosper in Biblical terms means holistic blessings from God, not just financial wealth. The Christian considers their salvation, a godly home and loving family, and contentment at being provided all needed by the Lord as foundational to their prosperity.