

## **Faith of Darius**

Daniel is yet another sterling character we see in the Book of books. In this chapter , Daniel is still the highest official in the reign of the third king in his lifetime.

Daniel is an exile in the land of Babylon. Yet he was always one step below the king, be it Nebuchadnezzar or his son or Darius. King Darius is not a Babylonian king, but he invaded Babylon and vanquished Belshazzar and became ruler. Normally when an enemy king invades another country, he will destroy all the officers of the previous reign, because they pose a grave threat to the present king. But it is really surprising that Darius, not only retained Daniel, but put him in charge of the 120 governors of his kingdom.

If you read the life of Daniel, the most interesting thing is that his enemies were constantly certifying and testifying his character. All around him people were very jealous that Daniel's position is consistently on top and so they plotted to somehow overthrow him. They searched him through and through and this is what they could say about him,

**Daniel 6:5 ( NASB )** <sup>5</sup>Then these men said, "We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him with regard to the law of his God."

What a testimony! And so they did find a zero compromise area in Daniel's life. They decided to cash in on that. Those were the days, when kings were venerated as gods. So on the sly these evil men, worked on the mind of Darius and made him pass a law stating that no one should worship any other god, except the king for 30 days. If anyone would disobey he would be cast into lions den. Darius though he loved Daniel, was totally unaware of the evil design.

As soon as the seal was put, they ran to Daniel's house. Everyone seemed to know his prayertime and his prayerspot.

**Daniel 6:10 ( NASB )** <sup>10</sup>Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward 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.

As soon as they saw Daniel kneeling down, they ran once again to the king shouting high treason and entreating Darius to throw Daniel to the lions. Like a bolt from the blue, in a moment Darius understood the whole drama behind. Though he became very distressed, he could not do anything because his seal had been set on the decree.

The helpless Darius now encourages Daniel and it is he who first utters the faith statement.

**Daniel 6:16 ( NASB )** <sup>16</sup>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."

The words of faith comes from an unbeliever. The pagan king strengthens Daniel about to be thrown into lions dens by saying, His God will protect him. Daniel must indeed be glad for these words.

Down Daniel goes to the Den.

But Darius neither ate nor slept. He not only told Daniel that His God will deliver him, but completely trusted that so much that even as the first light of the day could break, he not only goes to the lions den, but addresses to Daniel. Isn't this some kind of faith for an unbeliever!

He goes to the den of hungry lions and calls out to Daniel. Those around him must have laughed silently.

But there was a reply. Sure enough Darius faith was not in vain. Daniel well and alive salutes the king

**Daniel 6:21-22 ( NASB )** <sup>21</sup>Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever!  
<sup>22</sup>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."

A life well lived will surely rub on those around us. Daniel lived an impeccable life. It was this impeccability that made people take notice of Daniel and his God. He did not drink(1,8), he did not party(Daniel 5), he was not afraid of reprimanding Belshazzar when he drank in the vessels of the Temple.

His life was truly set on a mountain top. Is it too hard for Christians to live like this?

It will be hard when we do not know the secret of communing with God everyday privately. And Daniel was not embarrassed about his faith or his God. In western countries Christianity has become so mocked and jeered that Christian children dread to tell their peers that they are Christians. This is really sad, considering it was they who took the gospel to countries like us.

I really pray that we are not embarrassed about our God and our faith. Our faith will surely influence those around us, when our faith and our life flows in sync. It is this openness that made the King of Medes declare his trust on the Most High God.

**Daniel 6:25-28 ( NASB )** <sup>25</sup>Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language who were living in all the land: "May your peace abound! <sup>26</sup>"I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel;

For He is the living God and enduring forever,  
And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed,  
And His dominion *will be* forever.

<sup>27</sup> "He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders  
In heaven and on earth,  
Who has *also* delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."

<sup>28</sup>So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

The success of Daniel did not stop with Darius but also stayed on when Cyrus, the king chosen by God(Isaiah 44, 28) to rebuild Jerusalem, took over Babylon.

Let help us not to be embarrassed by our faith in our workplaces.

Help us to have such impeccable lifestyle that our faith rubs on to those around us.

In Jesus Name. Amen.