



# We Serve a Living God

Daniel 6

# Background



- ➡ **Darius** most likely was Darius I (Darius the Great)
- ➡ (v.1) **Satraps** are provincial governors. But it was also a class in the society.
- ➡ (v.8) The Persians did not have a constitutional government, but they shared a concept that the **written law** is above the power of the ruler (as in “written in stone”).
- ➡ **Lion’s den** was a form of execution for them but also served as a horrific entertainment

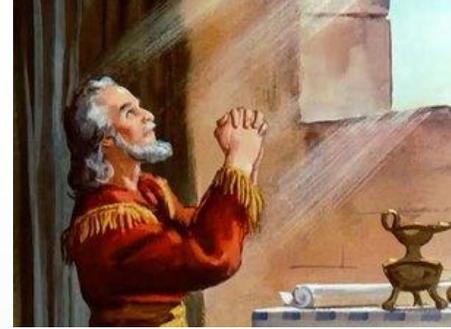
# The Living God



- Darius called God “the **Living God**” (v.20, 26)
- We serve a living God. He was certainly **with Daniel in the lion’s den.** But He was also with Daniel all those long years (good & bad times)
- Have you ever been in a den of lions? Why are there lions in life? How do we **experience** the Living God in **both good and bad times?**
- First let us examine why Daniel was so **unique**, then we can better appreciate how he did it.

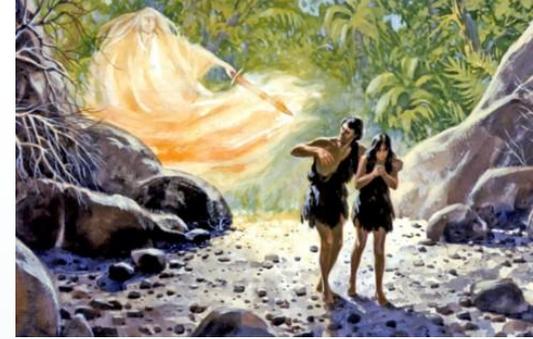
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- ▶ Let's think: What if Daniel did not **pray**? He might survive this one attack, but he would certainly face the next one and the next...
  - ▶ As far as Daniel was concerned: He would rather have the Living God **with Him** to face life, both the good and bad, than to avoid this one difficulty and lose the fellowship of God. (Psalm 23:6; 27:4; 65:4)
  - ▶ This is **wisdom**. He knew the goodness of God and dearly depended on it. He would rather pray and face the lions than not pray and deal with the “lions” of his own heart.

## But Why Open the Window?



- (read 1 King 8:46-50) But why oh why did he open the windows? Note: he did not have to
- I can think of 3 reasons (may be more): first, he fully **trusted** in God's plan as the best plan
- Second, Daniel was already living in a lion's den. His life was in constant danger. (Psalm 27)
- Third, he did not want to give them the satisfaction that somehow they **changed** him or he was scared of them. (Psalm 56)

## We Live in a Sinful World



- Note: So long as we are living in a **sinful world** we will have terrible things happen to us. If these enemies did not get Daniel on his faith, they would just hurt or even murder him perhaps.
- It is not about “deserving” or “not deserving.” Nowhere in the Bible did God ever once promise that **bad things** will **NOT** happen to good people. (ill: Joseph)
- The **outcome** was totally in God’s hand (best).



# Strength with the Living God



- So **how** do we have the **strength** to face the lions? What can we learn from Daniel?
- For Daniel it was **prayer**—the only path to rely on the Living God in our daily lives (Rom. 12:12; Col. 4:2; Phil. 4:6-7; Eph. 6:18, 1 Thes. 5:16-18)
- (v.10) He prayed **constantly**, same place, same time, & everyday (Psalm 92:2-3).
- (v.10) He approached God with **humility**, trusting in God' sovereign plan (2 Chr. 7:14).