**Daniel 6:2-29**

**Daniel and the Lion's Den**

**Lesson 8**

1. **Reflecting on your experiences during the past week, when did you feel closest to God? *OR* was there a verse or message in this week’s lesson that you found inspiring?**
2. ***Why* do the ministers and satraps want to plot against Daniel? See Dan 6:2-6.**

**Dan 6:2-6** **3**These were accountable to three ministers, one of whom was Daniel; the satraps reported to them, so that the king should suffer no loss. Daniel outshone all the ministers and satraps because an extraordinary spirit was in him, and the king considered setting him over the entire kingdom. **5**Then the ministers and satraps tried to find grounds for accusation against Daniel regarding the kingdom. But they could not accuse him of any corruption. Because he was trustworthy, no fault or corruption was to be found in him. **6**Then these men said to themselves, “We shall find no grounds for accusation against this Daniel except in connection with the law of his God.”

1. **In their attempts to usurp Daniel’s authority, what tactics do the ministers and satraps use?**
2. **How is the character of Daniel described by these men?**
3. **How does the conspiracy against Daniel remind us of persecution of the early Christians?**

**Can you see a correlation to Daniels’s predicament and the unjust persecution of others in Psalm 94:20 and Romans 8:31-33?**

**Psalm 94:20**
Can unjust judges be your allies, those who create burdens by decree….

**Romans 8:31-34**

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32**He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? **33**Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. **34**Who will condemn?

1. **Consider the restrictions that are being placed on these Jewish Exiles at this time. What was the law that was forced on Daniel’s companions in Daniel Chapter 3?**

**What are the *new* restrictions placed on the Jews in Daniel chapter 6? See Dan 3:9-12 and Dan 6:8.**

**Daniel 3:9-12.** At that point, some of the Chaldeans came and accused the Jews **9**to King Nebuchadnezzar: “O king, live forever! **10**O king, you issued a decree that everyone who heard the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, and double-flute, and all the other musical instruments should fall down and worship the golden statue; **11**whoever did not was to be cast into a white-hot furnace. **12**There are certain Jews whom you have made administrators of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have paid no attention to you; they will not serve your god or worship the golden statue which you set up.”

**Daniel 6:8.** All the ministers of the kingdom, the prefects, satraps, counselors, and governors agree that the following prohibition ought to be put in force by royal decree: for thirty days, whoever makes a petition to anyone, divine or human, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions.

1. **What does Daniel do when he learns about the new law? See Daniel 6:11.**

**Daniel 6:11.**Even after Daniel heard that this law had been signed, he continued his custom of going home to kneel in prayer and give thanks to his God in the upper chamber three times a day, with the windows open toward Jerusalem.

1. **Why is Darius so upset that he cannot sleep, and what does he do the next morning?**

**See Dan 6:19-21 and Dan 6:26-28**

**Dan 6:19-21 19**Then the king returned to his palace for the night; he refused to eat and he dismissed the entertainers. Since sleep was impossible for him, **20**the king rose very early the next morning and hastened to the lions’ den. **21**As he drew near, he cried out to Daniel sorrowfully, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you serve so constantly been able to save you from the lions?”

**Dan 6:26-28**Then King Darius wrote to the nations and peoples of every language, wherever they dwell on the earth: “May your peace abound! **27**I decree that throughout my royal domain the God of Daniel is to be reverenced and feared:

“For he is the living God, enduring forever,
    whose kingdom shall not be destroyed,
    whose dominion shall be without end,
**28**A savior and deliverer,
    working signs and wonders in heaven and on earth,
    who saved Daniel from the lions’ power.”

1. **How important is it to “keep the faith” when we find ourselves in times of stress, grief or seemingly unsurmountable problems?**
2. **What is the benefit of setting aside a time or schedule for daily prayer?**

