

*“The LORD is my rock and my fortress
and my deliverer”*

Introduction

Context of Daniel (chapters 2-7)

- (2) Gentile domination until God’s everlasting Kingdom (shown as a _____)
- (3) God’s men persecuted for their trust in Him (not willing to worship a _____)
- (4) Prideful Gentile ruler humbled by God and saved (Nebuchadnezzar)
- (5) Prideful Gentile ruler humbled by God and judged (Belshazzar)
- (6) God’s man persecuted for his trust in Him (willing to be thrown to the _____)
- (7) Gentile domination until God’s everlasting Kingdom (shown as _____)

Daniel 6

- 1. _____ Regime = _____ Daniel... _____ God (6:1-3)

- 2. _____ of the faithful (6:4-17)
 - a. The plot (6:4-9)

 - b. Obeying God rather than man (6:10-11)

 - c. The accusations (6:12-15)

 - d. The execution (6:16-17)

- 3. _____ of the faithful (6:18-23)

- 4. _____ of the wicked (6:24)

- 5. _____ of the God of Daniel (6:25-27)

- 6. _____ for faithfulness (6:28)

Who is Darius the Mede?

“Darius the Mede” is never mentioned in secular literature, so liberal scholars use the argument from silence to discredit the historical accuracy of the book of Daniel. In my opinion, this line of thinking is heretical and absurd! Walvoord states, *“It must be emphasized that there is no established fact which contradicts a person by the name of Darius the Mede reigning over Babylon...”*

There are two well-accepted possibilities as to the identity of Darius the Mede, of Daniel 6, 9 & 11.

1. He is **Cyrus the Great**, king of Persia
2. He is **Gubaru (Gobryas)**, the man appointed by Cyrus to oversee the Babylonian region of the Persian empire

Contrasting the CHARACTER and RESPONSES of Nebuchadnezzar and Darius

Situation	Nebuchadnezzar (ch.3)	Darius (ch.6)
1. Edict to force God’s people to violate at least 2 commandments (God’s law)	His idea/plan	Not his idea/plan
2. Response to the violation of the king’s edict	Burning anger	Distraught... recognized error
	Seeks vengeance	Seeks rescue
3. Motivation to issue sentence	His own will	Forced by others
4. King’s authority	Subject to himself	Subject to laws of M&P
5. King’s comment on the sentence	“What god can deliver you?”	“Your God... will deliver”
6. King’s expectation of the outcome	Anticipates horrible death	Expects divine deliverance

Comparing the DECREES of Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 3:28-4:3) and Darius (Dan. 6) after the deliverance

Nebuchadnezzar (Babylonians) (ch.3)	Darius (Medes & Persians) (ch.6)
1. May your peace abound	May your peace abound
2. No one should speak against their God	All men should tremble and fear the God of Daniel
3. Most High God	Living God enduring forever
4. Kingdom everlasting, dominion to all generations	Kingdom cannot be destroyed, dominion forever
5. Signs and wonders God has done for me	Performs signs and wonders in heaven and earth
6. God sent his angel to deliver	Delivered Daniel
7. No god able to deliver in this way	God delivers and rescues

Similarities of the CHARACTER and RESPONSES of Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-nego, and Daniel

Shadrach-Meschach-Abednego (ch.3)	Daniel (ch.6)
1. Faithful, godly men	Faithful, godly man
2. Accused by fellow-leaders	Accused by fellow-leaders
3. Accused of disregarding the king	Accused of paying no attention to the king
4. Accused of not worshiping the king’s statue – by obeying God’s law	Accused of praying to God (not the king) – by obeying God’s law
5. Had a great testimony before the king	Had a great testimony before the king
6. Willingly violated the king’s command	Willingly violated the king’s edict
7. Knew the consequences were torturous death	Knew the consequences were torturous death
8. Willing to die	Willing to die
9. Would rather obey God than men	Would rather obey God than man
10. Put their complete trust in God	Put his complete trust in God
11. Sentence and delivered to execution	Sentenced and delivered to execution
12. Delivered by God through an angel	Delivered by God through an angel

Discussion Questions

1. There have been many critics of the book of Daniel, questioning its authenticity and accuracy (based on the reference to Darius the Mede). But over the centuries their objections continue to be overcome with new historical and archaeological discoveries. Yet the critics remain, not only of Daniel, but of the whole Bible. To a person who doubts the trustworthiness, accuracy and authority of the Bible, how can you respond to their questions and objections?
2. Normally when new regimes enter into power they bring their own people to put in places of authority. How does the fact that Daniel, a Jewish exile, is appointed to such a high governmental position, speak to the truth about God's sovereignty (see Proverbs 21:1)? What sort of impact does this truth have on your everyday life?
3. In Daniel 6, Daniel is probably in his mid-80s. Discuss the significance of his age in relation to what he is doing – learning a new job, with a new boss, new employees working for him, distinguishing himself above other younger men. What does this say to Christians today?
4. It appears as if the men Daniel works with are jealous of his success, among other things. Consider these other passages that address the same sort of challenges to the obedient child of God: Matthew 5:10-12; 1 Peter 2:18-20; 3:10-14; 4:12-16. What principles do you see in these passages that we are to follow? Which of these do you struggle with?
5. Daniel was such a godly man that many men were not able to find anything of which to accuse him. What if someone performed a thorough search of your life? Would they say the same thing? In the privacy of your own heart, ask God to help you work on things that you could currently be accused of.
6. The only thing they could accuse Daniel of was praying and worshiping God. These were areas in which Daniel was consistently faithful to God. Which areas of your life could people accuse you of being “too godly?”
7. Taking into account all of Daniel 6, what do you know about Darius? What can you learn from him?
8. This is clearly a story about a miraculous deliverance by God of a faithful man of God. List a few other places in the Bible where we see God deliver his people. Read Psalm 18. How do these acts of deliverance of the past help us thousands of years later? (hint: Read Hebrews 11:32-12:3)
9. Up to Daniel 6 there have been many statements of acknowledgement made about God. In his prayers Daniel thanks God. Then Darius acknowledges God even more. What does God want us to learn from this for our own lives?
10. Read Daniel 6:28. Where did Daniel's success come from? Do you have success in any area of your life? Where does that success come from? Do you have blessings? Where did they come from? How does this relate to question #9?
11. What are the big ideas that have come out of the book of Daniel up to this point? What are the main things that God wanted the exiles to learn, and that God wants us to learn today?

Answer Key for 1st page:

- Context 2) Statue; 3) Statue; 6) Beasts; 7) Beasts
- Outline 1) New; Same; Same; 2) Persecution; 3) Deliverance; 4) Judgment; 5) Acknowledgement; 6) Reward;