

Focus passage: Daniel 6:1-11

1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; **2** and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. **3** Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. **4** Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. **5** Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God." **6** Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! **7** All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. **8** Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." **9** Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction. **10** When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. **11** Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.

What stands out to you from this passage?

What had Daniel done to make himself an enemy of other officials in the kingdom?

What is their plan to entrap Daniel? How do you think these officials knew their plan would work?

If Daniel had not already been a man who publicly followed God, the officials wouldn't have known that he wouldn't follow this new law. Are there ways in which you follow God that make it abundantly clear to others? Are there laws then we aren't be able to follow?

When does it say Daniel went to his house to pray? Was he unaware that his actions were breaking the law?

*Daniel was one of three high officials in the whole land, so of course he knew the law and he knew the consequence. Given that situation, are you surprised by the way in which Daniel responds? Paul writes of similar boldness, **read Romans 1:16**.*

Daniel goes to his house, opens his windows--not hiding himself, and prayed three times, just as he done previously. Daniel did the very action the other officials were probably waiting for, and did it in just the same manner. What gives him such confidence?

*We may know the rest of the story better than we know its context, but read **Daniel 6:19-28** to be reminded of its conclusion. What results from Daniel's faith and God's provision?*

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

