

## GLEANINGS FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

### DANIEL CHAPTER 6:18-28 DANIEL, DARIUS & A DECREE

18 Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him. 19 Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. 20 And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” 21 Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! 22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.” 23 Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God. 24 And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.

25 Then King Darius wrote:

To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth:  
Peace be multiplied to you.

26 I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.

For He is the living God,  
And steadfast forever;  
His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed,  
And His dominion shall endure to the end.

27 He delivers and rescues,  
And He works signs and wonders  
In heaven and on earth,

Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

1) Daniel and his friends experienced a lot of trouble in these last few chapters! Why do you think God allows bad things to happen to good people?

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2) How did King Darius respond once Daniel was thrown into the lions' den? What does that reveal about him as a person?

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3) How did God use Daniel in Darius' life?

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4) King Darius had Daniel's accusers *and* their families thrown into the lions' den—do you think that was fair? What does the Bible say about this?

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5) Look at the text carefully—why wasn't Daniel injured by the lions? What does this teach you about the trials you face in life?

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6) Critics of the Bible laugh at these accounts, they claim that it just isn't possible for Daniel to have escaped unharmed by the lions, while his accusers were eaten. How would you respond to such criticisms?

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7) Compare King Darius' message with King Nebuchadnezzar's testimony in Daniel 4:34-35. What is the main truth that both kings learned about the God that Daniel served?

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