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The Deliverance of Darius
6: 25-28

The Deliverance of Darius DIG: How does King Darius respond to Dani'el being saved out of the lion's den? Why did he become a believer? If God receives glory from miraculous rescues and good-guy endings, why do you think the righteous still suffer? How were the decrees of Nebuchadnezzar and Darius the same? Different? How is the theology expressed by Darius as true as anything written by Moses, David, or Paul?

REFLECT: What parallels do you see between Dani'el's betrayal in 6:3-18 and Yeshua's? Between Dani'el's vindication in 6:19-28 and Messiah's? An angel protected Dani'el. In what ways have you seen evidence of the work of an angel in your life? Dani'el faced the lions because of his beliefs. What penalties have you faced for your beliefs? What would you say is the key to giving God glory no matter what?

ADONAI is the living God, who endures forever, His dominion will never end;
He offers deliverance, performing signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth.



The deliverance of Darius (6:25-27): The plot of **Dani'el Chapter 6** was set in motion by **the king** issuing **a decree** that **prayers** could only be directed toward or through **him** (**to see link click Dm – The Conspiracy of the Royal Administrators**). But after experiencing **Dani'el's** miraculous deliverance from **the lions' den** (see **Do – Dani'el in the Lion's Den**), the chapter ends with **a** counter-**decree**, nullifying **his** original edict, and promoting **the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**.[348] Like **his** ancestor **King Nebuchadnezzar, Darius wrote to all the peoples of every language in the Province of Babylon.** Both **decrees** offered the same greeting: **May you prosper greatly! I issue a decree that in every part of my province, people must fear and reverence the God of Dani'el (6:25-26a). Darius** stated **his decree** more positively than **the decree** of **Nebuchadnezzar** which threatened to **cut people into pieces and** have **their houses be turned into piles of rubble** if **they** defamed **the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (3:29).**

For He is the living God (6:26b): This indicates that **He** not only exists, but is active in the world. Certainly **Dani'el's rescue** showed that in a dramatic fashion. This reference to **the living God** not only contrasts **YHVH** with **the** lifeless **gods of the nations (Jer 16:18; Hab 2:19),** but also calls attention to **His** capacity to preserve life as a **God** who **saves and rescues His** followers **(6:27a)**. As **Psalm 42:2a** declares: **I thirst for the living God.**

and He endures forever (6:26c). Darius agreed with **Nebuchadnezzar**, who said: **God's dominion is an eternal dominion (4:34b).** And **the Psalter** agrees with both of **them**, declaring: **Give thanks to ADONAI, for He is good, and His lovingkindness** (see the commentary on **Ruth Af – The Concept of Chesed**) **endures forever. He alone does great wonders, His love endures forever (Psalm 136:1** and **3).** And because **His love endures forever**, that means that the righteous of the TaNaKh, and believers in every dispensation will **endure forever** (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Ms – The Eternal Security of the Believer**).

His Kingdom will not be destroyed and His dominion will never end (6:26d): In the past, **Nebuchadnezzar** had said the same thing in different words: **His kingdom endures from generation to generation (4:34c).** This theology expressed in the **decree** of **Darius** is as true as anything written by **Moses**, **David**, or **Paul**. **ADONAI** is the living and eternal **God** whose **Kingdom**, unlike the four Gentile Empires that precede **it**, will never be destroyed (see **Bg – The Fifth Empire: The Kingdom of God**).[349]

He delivers and he rescues (6:27a): Nebuchadnezzar said basically the same thing **to Dani'el, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings,"** the ruler over **the kings** of the earth, **and a Revealer of mysteries (2:47)**. I think that **King Darius** believed this, **and it was credited to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6). The fear of ADONAI is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding (Proverbs 9:10). Darius decreed that his subjects needed to fear and reverence the God of Dani'el (6:26a).** Therefore, I believe that **he** had **gained wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One.**

He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth (6:27b): Both royal **decrees** make the same claim . . . **Ha'Shem** is sovereign and **He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth (4:35b)**. Perhaps for **the Hebrews** held captive in **Babylon** (see **Jeremiah Gu – Seventy Years of Imperial Babylonian Rule**), the testimony of **Darius** to **God's power** to perform **signs and wonders**, and to deliver **His people** stirred thoughts of **the signs and wonders** associated with the exodus from Egypt and the possibility of a return to the Promised Land (see **Ezra-Nehemiah Ag – The First Return**).[350]

He has rescued Dani'el from the power of the lions (6:27c): The signs and miracles that **YHVH** performed were not to "show off," but to demonstrate to a lost world that **He** is the true **God** and should be honored. **Dani'el's rescue from the lion's den** seems to have had a profound effect on **Darius**. While it is true that **Darius' decree** did not violate any of the polytheistic beliefs of the **Babylonian** culture at that time, there are no qualifications in **his** statements. **He** clearly and undeniably declared that **the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob delivers and rescues (6:27a).** Obviously, **his** personal beliefs did not lead to a revival of **the province of Babylon**, but I do believe **he** was miraculously **rescued** spiritually, just as **Dani'el** was miraculously **rescued** physically. There are many today, like Mormons, Hindus, Buddhists, Wiccans, Druids, and most traditional African religions, who are **rescued** out of a polytheistic religious system. Thus, **God** is not limited in **His** ability to **rescue** anyone from any polytheistic religion. This has been evidenced throughout human history.

Prospering in the exile (6:28): So Dani'el prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian (see **Ag – Cyrus and Darius**)**.** In the context of this verse, the Aramaic term for **prospered** (*haslah*) refers to political success. We have seen **Dani'el** climb the political ladder from captive

prisoner to **entering the king's service (1:19-20)**, to being **in charge of all the wise men in Babylon (2:48)**, to **the king's** personal advisor **(4:27)**, to being **set over the whole province of Babylon** like **a Prime Minister (6:3).**[351]

So Dani'el prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian. This rounds off the story of **Dani'el's** life, and puts **his** experience in **the lions' den** into a broader context. It reminds us that most of **Dani'el's** life was spent in exile, in the metaphorical **lions' den**. Yet, as the end of **Chapter 6** reminds us, **God** preserved **him** to prosper under successive **kings**, until the reign of **Cyrus**, when **Dani'el's** prayers for **Jerusale**m finally began to be realized once **the Persian king** issued a **decree** that **the Jews** could return to **their** homeland and rebuild **their** holy **City** (see **Ezra-Nehemiah Ai – The Decree of Cyrus**).

As far as we know, **Dani'el** never returned home to **his** beloved **Judah**. **His** reward would have to wait for the **Jerusalem** that is above (see **Hebrews Dc – The Earthly Sinai and the Heavenly Tziyon**). In the experiences of **Dani'el** and **his three friends**, **YHVH** demonstrated that **He** could keep **His people** safe in the midst of **their** enemies. Life in exile would never be home. However, through the faithfulness of **ADONAI**, it was possible for **His people** to survive the exile as **strangers** and **aliens**, serving the earthly empire in which **they** found **themselves**, even while **they** looked for another heavenly **City** that was yet to come.

This is how **Dani'el 6** addresses us as well, for we too are **strangers** and **aliens** in **this world**. We should learn from **Dani'el's** experience that **the world** in which we live is a dangerous place. **This world is not our home** and it never will be **(Heb 13:14)**. Yet, at the same time, we must also recognize that the hostility of **the world** can never hurt us beyond what **the Lord** permits **(Job 1:1-12)**. **Messiah** is the only **One** we need to please, and **His** opinion of us is the only one that counts (see **Revelation Cc – We Must All Appear Before the Bema Seat of Christ**). So, in the midst of the greatest of trials and suffering, even when we are persecuted for our faith, we can have a peace that will astound the world, for our **Lord** holds our oppressors in **His** hands.[352]

Deliverance today: If I asked you if you were a sinner, what would you say? **Romans 3:23** says: **For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.** That includes you and me, doesn't it? Most people feel that being good gets you into heaven and being bad keeps you out. That simply is not true; **we all have sinned**. What would you say sin is? I think we can agree that we are both sinners;

now let's define **sin**. Some have said, "I'm not perfect," or "I have made some mistakes." But what do you think the Bible means by sin? Well, the Bible says that **everyone practicing sin practices lawlessness – indeed, sin is lawlessness (First John 3:4).** Have you ever disobeyed your parents? Have you ever misused the name of **God**? Have you ever told a lie? This is what **sin** is. It's **practicing lawlessness**. And any time you **practice lawlessness** there is a penalty. If you run a stop sign, the penalty is a fine. If you rob a bank, the penalty is jail. What is the penalty for **practicing lawlessness**?

The Bible teaches us that **the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23a). The wages** of work is money, but **the wages of sin is death**. In other words, what I earn – the penalty, the punishment of **sin – is death**. **Death** is separation. The Bible speaks of two kinds of **death** that are two kinds of separation. The first **death** is separation of the body and the soul. If I were to die right now my body would fall to the floor, but my soul, the real me, would go somewhere else. But the Bible speaks of another **death**, one it calls **the second death**. This is separation of the soul from **God**. Now, the penalty of sin is death, spiritual death, and separation from **the LORD**. To put it simply – hell. All this is really bad news. But there is good news.

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). We were spiritually dead and unable to make the first move toward **God** because we inherited Adam's **sin** nature that rebelled and separated us from **Him**. So, **God** made the first move toward us by sending **His** one and only **Son** to die in our place for the payment for our **sins**. We stand before **the Son of God**, guilty of **sin**, and facing a death penalty. But **Yeshua**, as **judge (John 5:27)**, comes down from behind the seat of judgment, takes off **His** judicial robe and stands beside us. It is there that **He** says to us, "I will take your place. I will die for you." And if you were the only person in the world, **He** still would have died for you. The penalty for **sin** is death, but **Messiah** died and paid for **sin** so we do not have to go to hell.

It is not what you do for **God** that saves you, it is what **God** has already done for you.
You don't get to heaven by what you do; you get to heaven by what you **believe**.

What is it that I need to **believe** in, to **trust** in, to have **faith** in, to be saved?

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son who died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was

raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16 and First Corinthians 15:3b-4).

If you **believe** this, you are saved. Nothing else matters.

Salvation = **faith** + nothing (not baptism, not good works . . . nothing means nothing). **Without faith it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Now is the day of salvation (Heb 11:6** and **2 Corinthians 6:2c).**

Would you like to be saved right now?

Pray this simple prayer in **faith**. But before you do, I want you to remember that saying a prayer does not save you, **trusting** in **Yeshua Messiah** does. **God, I admit that I have sinned. I believe Yeshua Messiah died for my sins and rose in Victory. I want to trust Him to save me right now. Lord, please come into my heart and live inside of me, please make me a new person. I accept your gift of salvation.**

If you were to die right now, where would you go?

Why should **God** let you into **His** heaven?

That's right, because **Yeshua** died to pay for your **sins**.[353]