

“I'D RATHER GET EATEN THAN MISS DEVOTIONS”

1. Share a time when you were "done in" by having "the rug pulled out from under you"? How were you set up, betrayed, or falsely accused?

2. When have you felt really good about something you did, only to have someone be jealous or unhappy?

3. What stirs up the jealousy of the administrators and satraps? When their jealous fault-finding campaign (or special investigative unit) runs free of any ethical guidelines, where does it stop (vv.1-5)?

4. What trap do the satraps set for Daniel? Why has Daniel's private life become an issue for public policy and the public's right to know?

5. How do the satraps manage to get their way with the king (vv.6-7.12-13,15)? Why are appeals to vanity so powerful?

6. Why is the king so distressed (vv. 14,16)? Is he just being a “wimp”, favoring whoever he happens to be with at the moment? Or is he sincerely siding with Daniel and his God? Why do you think so?

7. What do you think really happened in the lions' den to Daniel? To the lions? To the satraps and their families? What about this do you have problems with?

8. What role does the "laws of the Medes and the Persians" play here (vv. 8,12,15,17,24)? Likewise, what role does the law of God play (vv. 5,10; see 2 Chr 6:38-39; Ps 55:17)? Likewise, the faith of Daniel (vv.4,11,16,20-23; see Heb 11:33)?

9. As part of Daniel's complete vindication, his accusers receive the same punishment they had demanded that the accused receive (v. 24). Is this Persian custom of vindication and limited ("eye for eye", "life for life") retribution supported anywhere in the Bible? Where? But when, if ever, might it be okay to punish innocent family members of false accusers?

10. How does King Darius respond to all this? Has he himself become a believer? Or jumped on Daniel's bandwagon? Why do you think so?

11. Besides jealousy, what might cause people to be interested in the private lives of public figures, especially "incorruptible" ones?

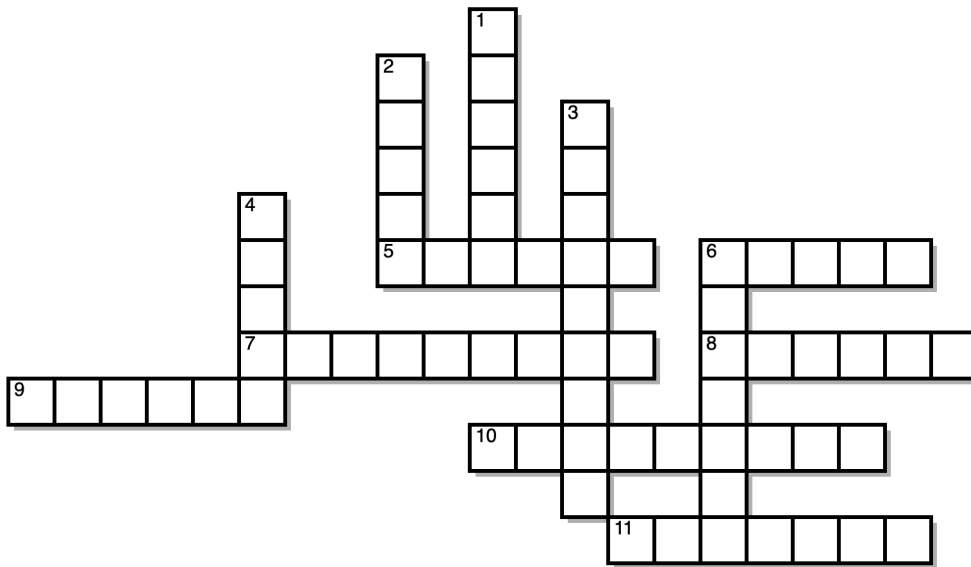
12. What stirs up your jealousy: (a) The success of others? (b) Desire for material things? (c) The devil? (d) When someone else gets what is coming to you? (e) Other?

13. Does having strong principles and values cause you to be more vulnerable to others, or less? Why?

14. Daniel shows us that the law of one's God supersedes the law of the land. How do you reconcile what Daniel did with Romans 13:1? How does this square with your view on separation of church and state issues? (See also Mt 22:21; Lk 20:25; Ac 5:29, for additional views on this matter.)

15. What parallels do you see between Daniel's betrayal (vv.3-18) and Jesus'? Between Daniel's vindication (vv.19-28) and Jesus'? What do you make of those obvious parallels?

16. When in your life have you experienced God in the midst of a "lions' den" (of skeptics, critics, etc.)? How has God alone been your lifeline?



Down

1 What adjective does Darius use to describe Daniel's God? (6:20,26)

2 The decree could not be changed, according to the law of the _____ and the Persians. (6:8)

3 Daniel was one of three _____. (6:2)

4 What belonging to Daniel's accusers were broken before they reached the bottom of the den? (6:24)

6 Darius set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty _____. (6:1)

Across

5 The king sealed the cover of the lions' den with his own _____ ring. (6:17)

6 A _____ covered the mouth of the lions' den. (6:17)

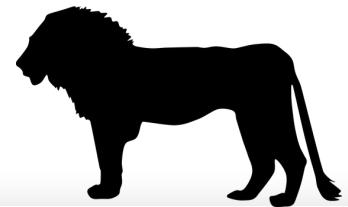
7 What kind of spirit was in Daniel? (6:3)

8 Prayer to anybody but Darius was prohibited for this many days. (6:7)

9 What did Daniel give to God three times every day? (6:10)

10 Daniel's room faced the direction of this very important city. (6:10)

11 Darius was doing this all through the night. (6:18)



WORD SEARCH:

Darius	Signed
Kingdom	Writing
Account	Prayed
Spirit	Custom
Realm	Assembled
Charge	Found
Fault	Cast
Faithful	Angel
Error	Mouths
God	Innocent
Thronged	Glad
Statute	Overpowered
Decree	Broke
Petitions	Steadfast
Den	Cyrus
Lions	

D P Y W J V D A R I U S P R A Y E D N M
 E L E A N G E L N W Q Z R Z K Y Y W J R
 G M I T T M O N M N Y T L Y F J N N V Q
 N E D O I T M D E O N T N Y O V J R G L
 O G G L N T T Y M E U M Y M U N M B T Y
 R R M Z W S I O C Y R T L D N R M L Q Y
 H A M M T J D O D R Y C H A D X U L Y D
 T H N L L G N Z N Y W D E S E A M W M Z
 D C M V N N X T R S E R M D F R K P Q W
 N B Z I I S S E M R Q V D G Y Z M Z Y G
 W M K B I A R L E K S E C U S T O M D G
 J X B G C R N W T S L T L U F H T I A F
 M Y N J O M O N G B T K E V Q N Z T L T
 R E L R D P U T M N L A L A P X I Q J T
 D M R J R O N E B S I Q T N D R V B B D
 P M T E C Q S G R U D T V U I F P Y B D
 N Z V C B S N L O R N J I P T D A D R K
 V O A G A D T A K Y N K S R B E E S Q Z
 X J B T Q Y K D E C N T Y L W P T N T Q