



20 November

Daniel 6:1-18



<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel%206:1-18&version=NKJV>

Daniel is bullied



Again, some years have gone by. The Neo-Babylonian Empire has been succeeded by the Medes and Persians. Darius rules over Babylon. Daniel again occupies a high office. He is one of the three highest ministers (“governors”) in the empire, and Darius wants to promote him to an even higher position.

His colleagues and government officials below him (“satraps”) become jealous. They try to bully him. But since they don’t find anything to accuse him of, they resort to a crafty idea: If anyone asks anything from anyone other than Darius, they should be thrown to the lions. Darius is flattered and issues the decree.

The plan works: Although Darius tries to wiggle out of it, he has to throw Daniel to the lions in the end.



- 25. What do you notice if you compare Daniel’s characteristics in verses 3-5 and 11 with those in chapter 1:8+17-21?
- 26. What can you learn from Daniel’s prayer life?



It appears that Darius the Mede was a vice king under Cyrus, appointed to rule in Babylon, because Cyrus himself was unable to rule the huge empire by himself. Cyrus would have been the highest ruler, but from the point of view of a government official like Daniel, Darius had enough power to be called „king“.



Don’t let anything or anybody stop you from praying!



25. Since chapter 1, more than 60 years have passed. Daniel is now approximately 80 years old. His character remains the same: Then and now, he lives for God. No outside influences can stop him from doing what he believes is right before God. 26. Suggestion: He prays three times a day, not “just a bit” but on his knees. He brings requests before God, but also maintains fellowship with his great God in praising Him. He is looking towards what is important to God (at that time Jerusalem. For Christians today it is God’s assembly, the church).