

## Daniel 6

### Two sets of vicious beasts



The best known of all the chapters of the book, but the famous lions don't really do their stuff until right at the end of it. Let's take some time to look at the build-up first.

➤ **What's changed? (1-2)**

A new empire in charge (remember 5:30-31). What has changed, and what has stayed the same? – and what might we see in empires of our own day, too, just generally typical of empires?

➤ **Resenting the irreproachable (3-5)**

Perhaps in contrast to some modern politicians, Daniel's conduct remains (he is probably at least 80 years of age, by this time) exemplary.

Is that something we should require or expect of our leaders?

But why should “a ground for complaint” be sought?

Should we also expect to see *that* in our society?

➤ **The trap is laid (6-9)**

Notice the repeated phrase “came by agreement”, a single word unique to this chapter, with hints of devious scheming.

How come this ruler is so easily taken in? What buttons did these conspirators press? So whose is the real power here?

➤ **What *hasn't* changed? (10)**

How might Daniel have been tempted to alter his habits?

So why didn't he? What is really at stake here?

What have Daniel's habits of prayer to teach us?

➤ **The trap is sprung ... (11-16)**

All staged, of course. And the trap seems inescapable.

Darius' words (16) maybe be a statement or a wish. Which?

➤ **... but fails! (17-24)**

Do you think Darius expected to hear an answer (20)?

Can we always expect “the mouths of lions” to be shut, when believers are in trouble (cf Hebrews 11:33-38)?

➤ **Another royal statement (25-28)**