

Daniel 6:16-28 – "The Great Reversal in the Lions' Den"**Sports, Politics, & Religion – Too divisive, too emotional...too much p.c!**

- All 3 lend themselves to discussion of past events...
- Sports – we love re-living the great moments: great upset or great comebacks.
- January 3, 1993 – one of those "great" moments in sports...

**The Pit Over Apostasy – Daniel's less than perfect situation (Daniel 6:1-16)**

- Our GO + year old has won favor with the new regime & its king, King Darius.
- Daniel is named one of 3 commissioners over territory – soon to be named over the other 2...
- When the 2 hear about this, they are filled with envy & determine to bring Daniel down!
- Because of Daniel's unparalleled character, they are unable to bring any charges against him.
- They devise a plot to force Daniel to have to choose his God over a new law

- "Daniel Law" – no prayer for 30 days except to (through) the king.
- Penalty for violation – thrown into the lion's den.

- Daniel is caught in the act; the king is informed (he is deeply distressed & tries to deliver Daniel)
- After finding no way out, the king (with accusers' insistence) has Daniel cast into the lions' den.

**The King's Hope: The king's restless night... (Daniel 6:16-18)**

- "Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you." (It's up to Him or the king's Wish)
- Stone placed over the opening & seal placed over that – no rescue attempt is possible... Great during night  
Forget them to
- Darius spends a restless night – fasting, no entertainment & no sleep... turning on  
lion's den

**Dawn Comes (part I): Does it come for Daniel (Daniel 6:19-23)**

- At break of dawn, Darius furries to see what has happened with Daniel – has your God...?
- Darius is overwhelmed – Daniel lives; he speaks: U king live forever
- God has protected Daniel from any harm – lions' mouths clamped shut, no scratches on Daniel
- God has shown mercy on Daniel because he had not sinned against God or against the king!
- Daniel is removed from the top of the den – unscathed for he had trust in his God...

**Dawn Comes (part II): Does it come for the accusers (Daniel 6:24)**

- King realizes that Daniel was set up, whole decree meant to get rid of Daniel.
- The Law of retaliation = Accusers receive punishment intended for Daniel & their families
- The lions pounced on them – apparently they were hungry after no meal during the night...  
**Vindication Complete – Complete reversal for Daniel (Daniel 6:25-27) Danger of Envy**
- The King decrees that all people in his kingdom are to fear & tremble before God...
- The reason? He is the Living God; He is eternal; He is sovereign; He delivers; He rescues...

**Daniel Prospers – This is sounding awfully familiar (Daniel 6:28)**

- Daniel enjoys success during the reign of Darius and (that is?) the reign of Cyrus the Persian
- We can only speculate if Daniel was used to influence Cyrus regarding his decree (ERA 1:1-4)  
Daniel vs Moses

**Who Is Our God – A Recap of Daniel (Daniel 1-6)**

- He grants favor & bestows great grace(1). God of gods, Lord of kings, revealer of mysteries(2)
- Able to deliver & worth of worship either way (3). Most High Ruler – sovereign great kings (4)
- He determines exact time of kingdoms (5). He is the Living God...(6)  
days in history  
working

**Proper Response to God: How Daniel Impacts Our Lives**

- We should praise and adore Him. REAL life - Devoted
- We should take comfort that this is our God & He continues to vindicate His own.
- In our lions' den moments, know that He is sovereign (over your situation, kings, all creation etc.)
- We must live faithfully – worthy of our calling, proclaiming His sovereignty, trusting God...
- Live realizing that God is our only hope against such enemies...because He is!
- Live remembering that He is the only hope for those enemies – only Christ solves the sin problem...  
May not deliver  
but will preserve
- Live appropriately as we wait the return of our Lord Jesus:

- watch, ready our Living God
- Growing in the grace & knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ
- Sharing the glorious Good News – our God is mighty to save!