



ACCORDING TO THE BUREAU OF LABOR
STATISTICS:

- We spend 35 –50% of our waking hours working.
- We will change careers 3 to 7 times over our lifetimes.
- The average American worker will have 12-15 jobs in a lifetime.

WE TEND TO FOCUS ON WORK IN TERMS OF THE FOLLOWING:

- What we do?
- Where we are in the organization?
- How much do we make?

3

GOD THINKS IN DIFFERENT TERMS:

- Why? (motives)
- How? (character)

4



5

The workplace can be a place of
conflict and struggle.
Daniel teaches us how to honor God in
any work environment.

6

WE WILL FOLLOW THE STORY UNDER THE FOLLOWING FIVE HEADINGS:

1. Under new management
2. A planned promotion
3. The plot to get rid of Daniel
4. Daniel's integrity and consistency
5. Surviving the lion's den

7

With any transition of leadership, there is often a jockeying for position within the organization. That was the case in Daniel chapter 6.

8 Group

1. Under New Management

9 Group



10



11

Out with Belshazzar, in with Darius the Mede.

12 Group

²⁹Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 5:29-6:2 (NIV)

³⁰That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain,
³¹and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.

Daniel 5:29-6:2 (NIV)

¹It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom,
²with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss.

Daniel 5:29-6:2 (NIV)

15

Daniel 5:29-6:2 (NIV) Last of 3

Three Observations:

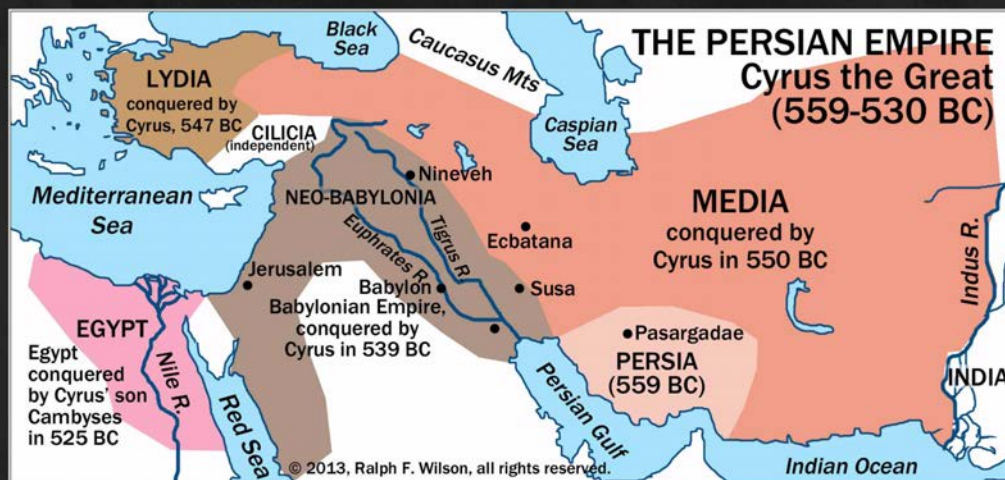
1. This story marks the transition from the Babylonian empire to the Persian Empire.

16 Group

Three Observations:

2. The Persian Empire is four times larger than the Babylonian Empire.

17



18

Three Observations:

3. The Persian Empire was massive, with 120 “states” or satraps. Daniel is one of three administrators over these 120 satraps.

19

Darius or Cyrus?

20 Group

ARE THEY THE SAME PERSON OR DIFFERENT PEOPLE?

- Darius and Cyrus are the same person.
- Darius and Cyrus are not the same.

21

²⁸So Daniel prospered during the reign of
Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel 6:28 (NIV)

22

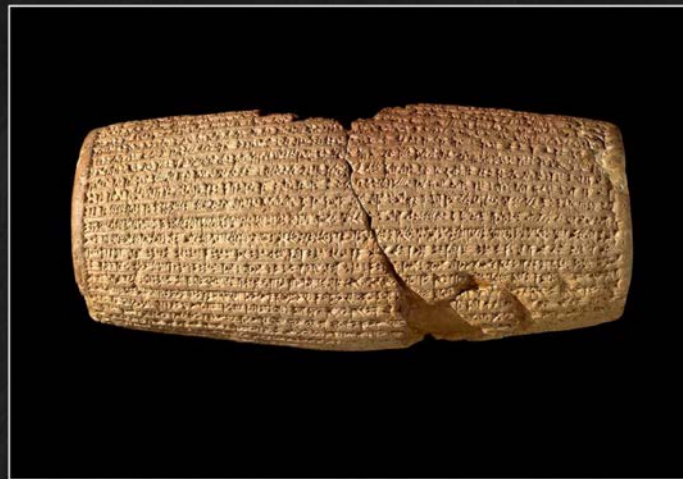
Daniel 6:28 (NIV)

¹In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom—

Daniel 9:1 (NIV)

23

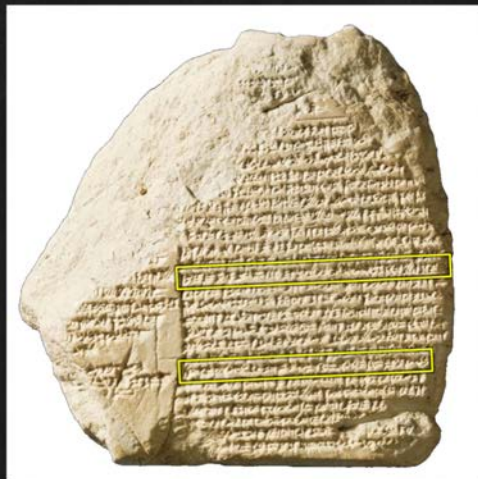
Daniel 9:1 (NIV)



24



25



26 Group

This highlighted area of the Nabonidus
Chronicle mentions Gubaru or Darius.
British Museum, London

27

2. A planned promotion

28 Group

³Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

Daniel 6:3 (NIV)

29

Daniel 6:3 (NIV)

What were these exceptional qualities?

30

Two things stand out about Daniel:
excellent work + excellent character.

31 Group

EXCELLENT WORK:

Work done with excellence honors God.

32

³Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

Daniel 6:3 (NIV)

33

Daniel 6:3 (NIV)

²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,
²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

34

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

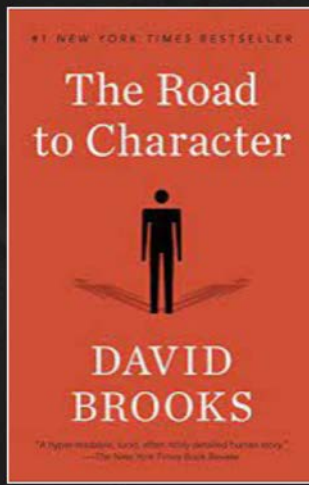
EXCELLENT CHARACTER:

Work done with Christlike concern for others leaves a lasting legacy.

35



36



37

².....so that the king might not suffer loss.

Daniel 6:2 (NIV)

38

Daniel 6:2 (NIV)

The king learned that he could trust
Daniel.

39

²Now it is required that those who have
been given a trust must prove faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV)

40

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV)

Darius is so impressed with Daniel, that he is about to promote him to the top administrator position in the kingdom.

41 Group

3. The plot to get rid of Daniel: office politics, extreme edition.

42 Group

Doing right does not guarantee that things will go well for you.

43

The corrupt administrators and satraps try to find grounds to bring an accusation against Daniel.

44

³Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

Daniel 6:3-9 (NIV)

⁴At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

Daniel 6:3-9 (NIV)

⁵Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

⁶So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever!

Daniel 6:3-9 (NIV)

⁷The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den.

Daniel 6:3-9 (NIV)

⁸Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

⁹So King Darius put the decree in writing.

Daniel 6:3-9 (NIV)

⁴At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

Daniel 6:4 (NIV)

¹²Those who want to kill me set their traps,
those who would harm me talk of my ruin;
all day long they scheme and lie.

Psalms 38:12 (NIV)

51

Psalms 38:12 (NIV)

⁵Finally these men said, “We will never find
any basis for charges against this man
Daniel unless it has something to do with
the law of his God.”

Daniel 6:5 (NIV)

52

Daniel 6:5 (NIV)

They hatch a plot to get rid of Daniel,
focusing on the practice of his faith.

53 Group

4. Daniel's integrity and consistency

54

¹⁰Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

Daniel 6:10 (NIV)

55

Daniel 6:10 (NIV)

Two things stand out about Daniel:

1. He has a well-established pattern of praying.

56 Group

¹⁶As for me, I call to God,
and the Lord saves me.

¹⁷Evening, morning and noon
I cry out in distress,
and he hears my voice.

Psalms 55:16-17 (NIV)

⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the
hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in
the synagogues and on the street corners
to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they
have received their reward in full.

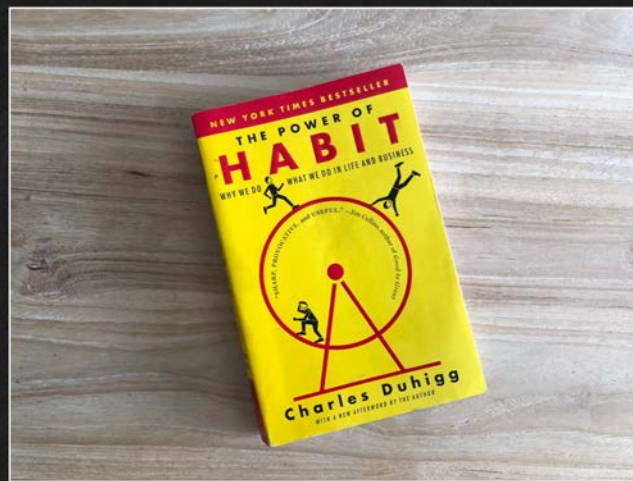
Matthew 6:5-6 (NIV)

⁶But when you pray, go into your room,
close the door and pray to your Father,
who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees
what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 6:5-6 (NIV)

59

Matthew 6:5-6 (NIV) Last of 2



60

Two things stand out about Daniel:

2. His prayer is not focused on himself but on God's glory and purpose in the world.

61

⁴⁶“When they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you become angry with them and give them over to their enemies, who take them captive to their own lands, far away or near;

1 Kings 8:46-51 (NIV)

62

1 Kings 8:46-51 (NIV) 1 of 5

⁴⁷And if they have a change of heart in the land where they are held captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captors and say, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, we have acted wickedly';

1 Kings 8:46-51 (NIV)

⁴⁸And if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies who took them captive, and pray to you toward the land you gave their ancestors, toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name;

1 Kings 8:46-51 (NIV)

⁴⁹Then from heaven, your dwelling place,
hear their prayer and their plea, and uphold
their cause.

⁵⁰And forgive your people, who have
sinned against you; forgive all the offenses
they have committed against you, and
cause their captors to show them mercy;

1 Kings 8:46-51 (NIV)

⁵¹For they are your people and your
inheritance, whom you brought out of
Egypt, out of that iron-smelting furnace.

1 Kings 8:46-51 (NIV)

³So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

Daniel 9:3-7 (NIV)

⁴I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed:
“Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments,
⁵we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled;

Daniel 9:3-7 (NIV)

We have turned away from your commands and laws.

⁶We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

Daniel 9:3-7 (NIV)

⁷“Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame—the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you.

Daniel 9:3-7 (NIV)

¹⁷“Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary.

¹⁸Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name.

Daniel 9:17-19 (NIV)

We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.

¹⁹Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.”

Daniel 9:17-19 (NIV)

5. Surviving the lions' den

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¹¹Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

¹²So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?"

Daniel 6:11-17 (NIV)

74

Daniel 6:11-17 (NIV) 1 of 5

The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

¹³Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day."

Daniel 6:11-17 (NIV)

¹⁴When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

¹⁵Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him,

Daniel 6:11-17 (NIV)

“Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.”

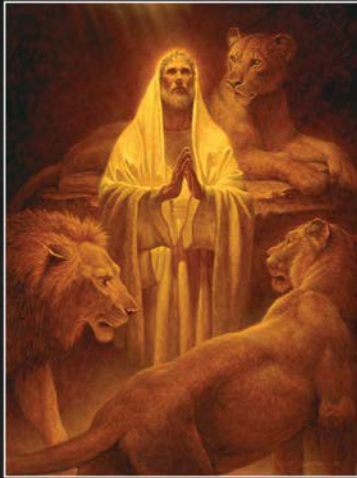
¹⁶So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den.

Daniel 6:11-17 (NIV)

The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed.

Daniel 6:11-17 (NIV)



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¹⁸Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den.

Daniel 6:18-28 (NIV)

²⁰When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

Daniel 6:18-28 (NIV)

²¹Daniel answered, “May the king live forever!

²²My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

Daniel 6:18-28 (NIV)

²³The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Daniel 6:18-28 (NIV)

²⁴At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

Daniel 6:18-28 (NIV)

²⁵Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: "May you prosper greatly!

Daniel 6:18-28 (NIV)

²⁶“I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. “For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.

Daniel 6:18-28 (NIV)

²⁷He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

²⁸So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel 6:18-28 (NIV)

The moral of the story is NOT that God always rescues those who are faithful.

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³²And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets,
³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,

Hebrews 11:32-39 (NIV)

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Hebrews 11:32-39 (NIV) 1 of 5

³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again.

Hebrews 11:32-39 (NIV)

There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection.

³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.

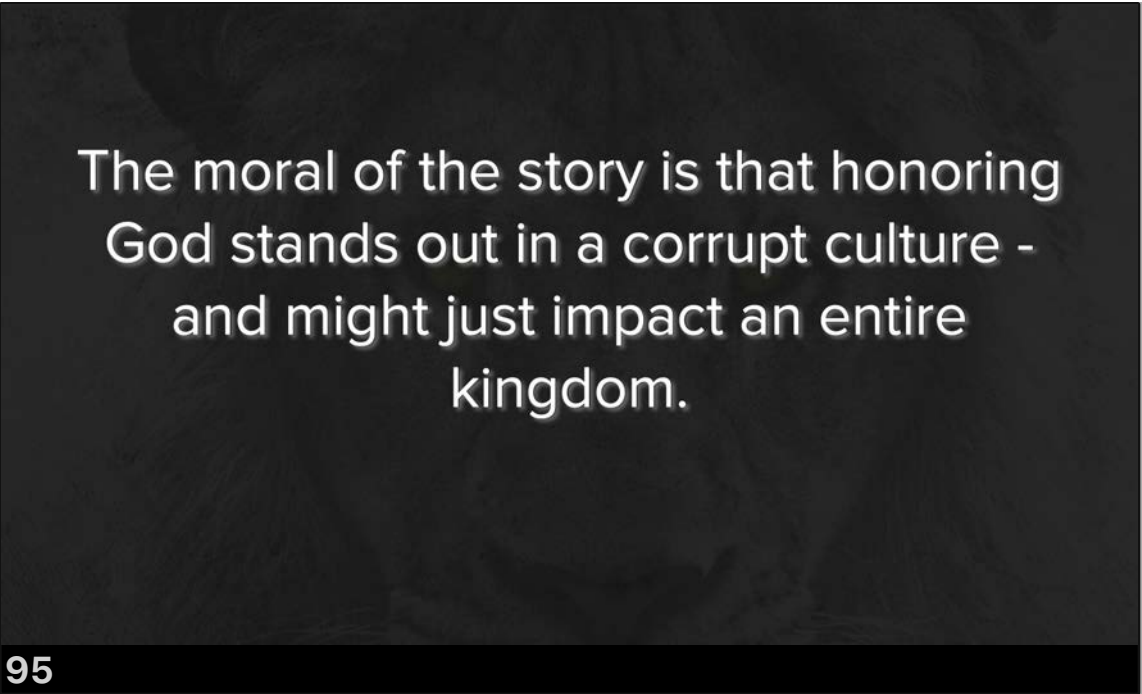
Hebrews 11:32-39 (NIV)

³⁷They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—

Hebrews 11:32-39 (NIV)

³⁸the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.
³⁹These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised,

Hebrews 11:32-39 (NIV)



The moral of the story is that honoring
God stands out in a corrupt culture -
and might just impact an entire
kingdom.

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This story ultimately points to Jesus.

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¹⁹At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den.

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Daniel 6:19-22 (NIV)

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Daniel 6:19-22 (NIV)



DANIEL

THRIVING IN BABYLON

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