# Liars, Laud and Lions – Daniel 6

Earlier this week, one of my friends posted a Bible verse on his Facebook feed.

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.
Lev. 18:22

Within a few minutes, the following responses were posted:

There is a lot of hate in this post and the comments. I'll probably get attached [sic] for saying that. I probably won't engage in a debate. Does it make more sense to go back and grab a verse from Leviticus, or to live how Jesus said is the most important thing, love. I'd rather spend my time working on my own heart and figuring out how to be more loving, than engage in a debate around hate and judgement. But if you really want to talk about it, message me.

Another person said:

What a strange time to bring up something so controversial? Should you not be spreading calm and love and hope?? I lost quite a bit of respect for you here.

Other comments include claims that this was referring to pedophilia, not homosexuality and other allusions that were too repulsive to repeat.

Now my friend was probably not wise putting this up with no context and no explanation, but even if he had put on commentary and context with the verse, I have no doubt the attacks would have been equally fierce, if not more so.

Throughout history there has been animosity between truth and feelings. People who want to do wrong get offended and defensive when someone exposes them to the truth. John 3:19-20 says:

“**19** "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. **20** "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.” (Joh 3:19-20 NAS95)

The world fears the light. This is the reason that you see people trying to find reasons to dismiss the Bible while blissfully ignoring the Quran, the Tao Te Ching, the Sutras, the Vedas, and other religious texts of the world.

Last week we saw that one attack they use is the historicity of Belshazzar. We saw that the world is now coming to understand that the Bible was right all along. This week we will again examine some attacks that the world uses against the Bible. As promised, we will first examine the Lies that the Bible is not historical, then we will how the world uses Lies against believers . This will be contrasted with the Laud (worship) of God in persecution and the Laud for a faithful worker. Finally, we will examine the attacks of the world as we the that the Lions are in God’s control and that they must bow to The Lion of Judah.

## Lies that the Bible is not historical Daniel 5:31-6:3

“So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.” (Da 5:31 NAS95)

“**1** ¶ It seemed good to Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, that they would be in charge of the whole kingdom, **2** and over them three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), that these satraps might be accountable to them, and that the king might not suffer loss. **3** Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.

In their denial of the Bible, the American Humanist website says, “The book of Daniel also says one “Darius the Mede” captured Babylon in the sixth century B.C.E. In contrast, historians know that Cyrus of Persia took Babylon.” Skeptics are quick to point out that there is no Median king in this period known as Darius and that Persia conquered Babylon, not the Medes…but there are clues in history and in the passage that show us the Bible is correct.

First, we know that the Medo-Persian empire was an uneasy merging of the kingdom of the Medes and of the Persians, but it also incorporated many other kingdoms. The Mede kings were basically irrelevant, but their military was very important to the strength of the empire. When Babylon was conquered, King Cyrus led forces against the main Babylonian army at Sippar while he sent his general Ugbaru to conquer the actual city of Babylon. By conquering the capital city, Ugbaru received posession of the kingdom. Ugbaru is believed to have ruled Babylon as a vasal of Cyrus for a couple of years, but as the Nabonidus Chronicle describes him as elderly, his rule was fairly short.

According to Andrews University professor William Shea points out that Darius was likely not a name but a title, the word means “he who possesses or holds firm”. The Bible says that he was 62 when he received the kingdom…a fairly old age for that period of time.

Kings Nebuchadnezzar and Nabonidus both used the title King of Babylon. In contrast, Cyrus was listed with many titles. Before the conquest, Cyrus was called “King of Persia, King of Anshan, King of Media.” Immediately after the conquest, his titles are recorded as “the Great King, King of Persia, King of Anshan, King of Media, and King of the Four Corners of the World” Great king seeming to hold the same significance as Emperor, one to whom kings report. A couple years after the conquest of Babylon his title was recorded as the Great King, King of Persia, King of Anshan, King of Media, King of Babylon, King of Sumer and Akkad, and King of the Four Corners of the World.

The Bible records Darius received the kingdom at age 62. Who did he receive it from? Most likely it was given to him by Cyrus as a reward for his faithful service. He then subdivided the administration into 120 satrapies which were grouped under 3 commissioners, including Daniel. Knowing that he was getting older, king Darius most likely conferred with King Cyrus and suggested Daniel as his logical successor, thus the desire of the King (Cyrus or Darius) to put Daniel over the whole kingdom…not the Medo-Persian kingdom, but the Babylonian kingdom which was a part of the Medo-Persian empire. Later when Darius passed away, Cyrus came to Babylon and that is when he added the title King of Babylon to the list. History doesn’t record the name of Darius, because it is a title, not a name.

Thus, those who say the scripture is wrong are lying because they willingly misinterpret the text and ignore the historical facts that support the scriptures. People will also willingly misinterpret your faith.

## Lies against believers Daniel 6:4-9

**4** Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him. **5** Then these men said, "We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God." **6** ¶ Then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows: "King Darius, live forever! **7** "All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions’ den. **8** "Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked." **9** Therefore King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.

Just as the modern humanists are not effective in debunking the Bible, the other leaders of Babylon were not effective in finding a way to attack Daniel. Just as in modern politics, if he had lied, cheated or in any way been corrupt, they would have used it against him, even if they were doing the same thing. But they could find nothing, so they invented something. Their lie was subtle. ALL the commissioners, satraps, and high government officials have agreed that the king should be worshipped by all people as the only God. Of course, they lied…Daniel, who was a commissioner, surely had not agreed. Likely Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were satraps or at least high government officials.

When someone decides to attack you, will you be faithful enough that they have to make something up?

## Laud (worship) of God in persecution Daniel 6:10-13

**10** Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously. **11** ¶ Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God. **12** Then they approached and spoke before the king about the king’s injunction, "Did you not sign an injunction that any man who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, is to be cast into the lions’ den?" The king replied, "The statement is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked." **13** Then they answered and spoke before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps making his petition three times a day."

Daniel may have been surprised that the king signed the order, but he knew it had been signed and yet continued to pray to God as he always had. Notice, “as he had been doing previously.”

In 1963, the Supreme Court labeled prayer in school as illegal. Christians were outraged. Ironically, at least half of them had no right to be outraged. In 1960 58% of the schools in America had stopped prayer or bible reading as a part of their activities. In those schools that prayed, many people did not see it as a connection with God, but as another ritual to complete before the day started. Prayer did not leave school because of a supreme court ruling, but because of Christian neglect. No one starts doing the right thing just because the government outlaws it.

In contrast, Daniel did not complain, did not get upset, but just merely continued doing what he had already been doing. True worship is not outrage over what others do, it is a lifestyle that we live.

## Laud (admiration) for a faithful worker Daniel 6:14-15

**14** Then, as soon as the king heard this statement, he was deeply distressed and set his mind on delivering Daniel; and even until sunset he kept exerting himself to rescue him. **15** Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

The king had been tricked. It had not occurred to him that Daniel was the object of their law. If someone less powerful had been accused, the king likely would not even have been told about it, but in this case, they know they have to get the king to do the dirty deed himself. The king admired Daniel and wanted to save him…but because he was king of Babylon, not king of Persia, he was a vassal and had to obey the laws over him. He fought a hopeless battle.

Are you faithful enough in your work, friendships and neighborhood that people are willing to fight a hopeless fight to save you?

## Lions are in God’s control Daniel 6:16-24

**16** Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions’ den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you." **17** A stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed in regard to Daniel. **18** ¶ Then the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him. **19** Then the king arose at dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions’ den. **20** When he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?" **21** Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever! **22** "My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime."

Daniel was thrown into the lion’s den and the den was sealed. Middle-eastern were known to keep lions for their entertainment and to display their powers. Since the officials had planned to destroy Daniel, it is highly likely that they took steps to make sure the lions were hungry and angry before Daniel was tossed in. But God sent angels to shut the lion’s mouths. [Song: Here Kitty, Kitty]

When you face challenges to your faith or because of your faith, you can have confidence that God is bigger than the challenges.

**23** Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. **24** The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they cast them, their children and their wives into the lions’ den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

God is also sovereign over the judgment of those who defy His plans. They literally grabbed the conspirators out of the air before they hit the bottom and then crushed their bones. People have dismissed the danger to Daniel by saying the Lions were tame, or that they were well fed and not hungry. What happened to the conspirators shows the lions were more than ready to eat. God brought justice in His time. Daniel didn’t seek revenge, God arranged it. The same should go for us. God says in Romans 12:19 that He will repay the wrong. We should trust God to repay the wrongs, so we don’t have to.

## The Lion of Judah Daniel 6:25-28

**25** ¶ Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language who were living in all the land: "May your peace abound! **26** "I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion will be forever. **27** "He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has also delivered Daniel from the power of the lions." **28** So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.” (Da 6:1-28 NAS95)

While king Darius didn’t likely realize it, he was turning people to the Lion of Judah. In Genesis 49:9-10, we see a prophecy of Jesus, saying that the rulership of Israel would not depart from Judah and comparing Judah to a lion. In Revelation 5:5 we then see the fulfillment that the Lamb who is slain, Jesus, is the Lion of Judah.

When we are faithful, the world will know of God, even if they don’t know him. Does the world know of God because of your faithfulness?

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## The Lion of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Daniel 6:25-28

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