



A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF DANIEL

YES, NO & MAYBE

1. I would guess that many people here are somewhat shy about praying publicly with a group in a restaurant.
2. I'm fairly private about my personal religious beliefs.
3. There are people who do not like me because of my faith.
4. The Bible discourages most types of civil disobedience.
5. God tends to only rescue people miraculously when it will convince non-believers that He is real.

DIG DEEPER

➤ **READ Daniel 6:1-9** (NLT)

» **New King, New Opportunities**

- The Persian empire, which incorporated that of the Medes, a vast area forming an arc to the north of the Babylonian territories, extended eventually to Asia Minor, Libya and Egypt to the west, and to the Indus river and the Aral Sea to the east. It was the largest empire the world had yet seen, hence the urgent need for an efficient organization from the very beginning.

- “Satrap” is a word that means “protector of the kingdom”

- Daniel was an exceptional administrator, partly because of his extensive experience under Nebuchadnezzar (2:48) for about 39 years. So the king planned to make Daniel responsible for the administration of the entire kingdom. This of course created friction between Daniel and the other administrators and 120 satraps.

» **New Decree**

- The conspirators suggest that as a foreigner, Daniel can no longer be trusted. They further imply that Daniel's prayer to an alien God is a political act of rebellion against the king himself.

« The jealous other administrators and leaders see Daniel's spirituality and religious practices as a weakness. How have people around you viewed your spirituality and religion as a weakness for you?

➤ **READ Daniel 6:10-18** (NLT)

» **Civil Disobedience?**

- Elsewhere in Scripture it seems like God discourages civil disobedience (Mk. 12:17; Rom 13:1-2). What are the types of civil disobedience that God actually wants?



› **READ Daniel 6:19-28** (NLT)

› **The Most Concerned Individual...**

« King Darius seems to be the most concerned individual in this story. What do you think that God is trying to do here?

« Does God typically allow His followers to face punishments in order to make Himself known? Why would he work in this way?

« **“My God sent his angel to shut the lions’ mouths”** - God could have killed the lions in a number of ways, He could have given Daniel super strength like Samson, but instead He sent someone to BE with Daniel through that dark night. What does this reveal about God’s nature?

› **An Even Newer Decree!**

• King Darius makes a new decree--and a new discovery about Daniel’s God. He recognizes that: (vs. 27) “He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

« Does God always rescue and save people, do miracles, and give us signs? What does this say about Him?

MY PRAYER...

1. How much do I display my faith journey in public?
2. In what ways am I helping non-believers have empathy for my religious beliefs?
3. What new aspect of God’s character does He want me to know?

