

## Darius's Knowledge of God

---

*Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.*

*– Daniel 6:16 –*

---

It is difficult to fathom the depth of darkness experienced by the ancient pagans. Without a written revelation from God, they either groped hopelessly in the dark to find Him or else tried to wholly ignore their intrinsic need of reconciliation to Him. Such was the case with the Babylonians, the Medes, and the Persians. While these kingdoms could boast many marvelous achievements, they were utterly and totally blind from a spiritual standpoint.

When Nebuchadnezzar's brutal bands pillaged Jerusalem and carted away its citizenry, it was at once an act of divine retribution as well as one of heavenly mercy. The judgement God executed upon His recalcitrant chosen nation He also leveraged mercifully for these hopeless marauders from the East. You see, in that line of chained Jewish captives was a young man who would remarkably impact his captors as well as the history of mankind by simple obedience to his God and a stubborn public living of his faith in a foreign land. As Daniel obeyed God, God raised Daniel. Over time, though the man semi-assimilated into the Babylonian and then the Medo-Persian governments, he never ceased to be a stranger in a strange land. Despite the risks, Daniel continued to live out loud for the God of his fathers, which ultimately brought him to a capital violation of the law of the land and thus, the lion's den.

What is remarkable is Darius' statement upon the execution of Daniel's sentence. "Thy God, whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee." Perhaps it was more hopeful than confident, but it nonetheless speaks volumes about the brilliance of Daniel's witness to this powerful yet stunningly helpless pagan king. He had watched Daniel for years, and whether at royal social events or legislative sessions or private conversations between just the two of them, Darius never witnessed anything in Daniel more notable than that the man was all about his God. Daniel's monolithic witness was God's way of revealing Himself to Darius. And as the king rushed at morning's light to the den, his hope for his friend defying his sleep-deprived body, he found an even more astounding witness to the power of Daniel's God – the fact that He did, indeed, miraculously deliver Daniel from the rage of the lions.

Brethren, there are many Darius-like people in our world today, sad products of their culture, their circumstances, and their own sinful hearts. The only Bible they engage is us. Are we a consistent and reflective read?

*-- D. Murcek*