

Week 6

Sermon Series: Exiles: Daniel

Sermon Title: New King, Same God

Sermon Text: Daniel 6:1-28

Group Week of: August 28, 2022

Sermon Date: September 4, 2022

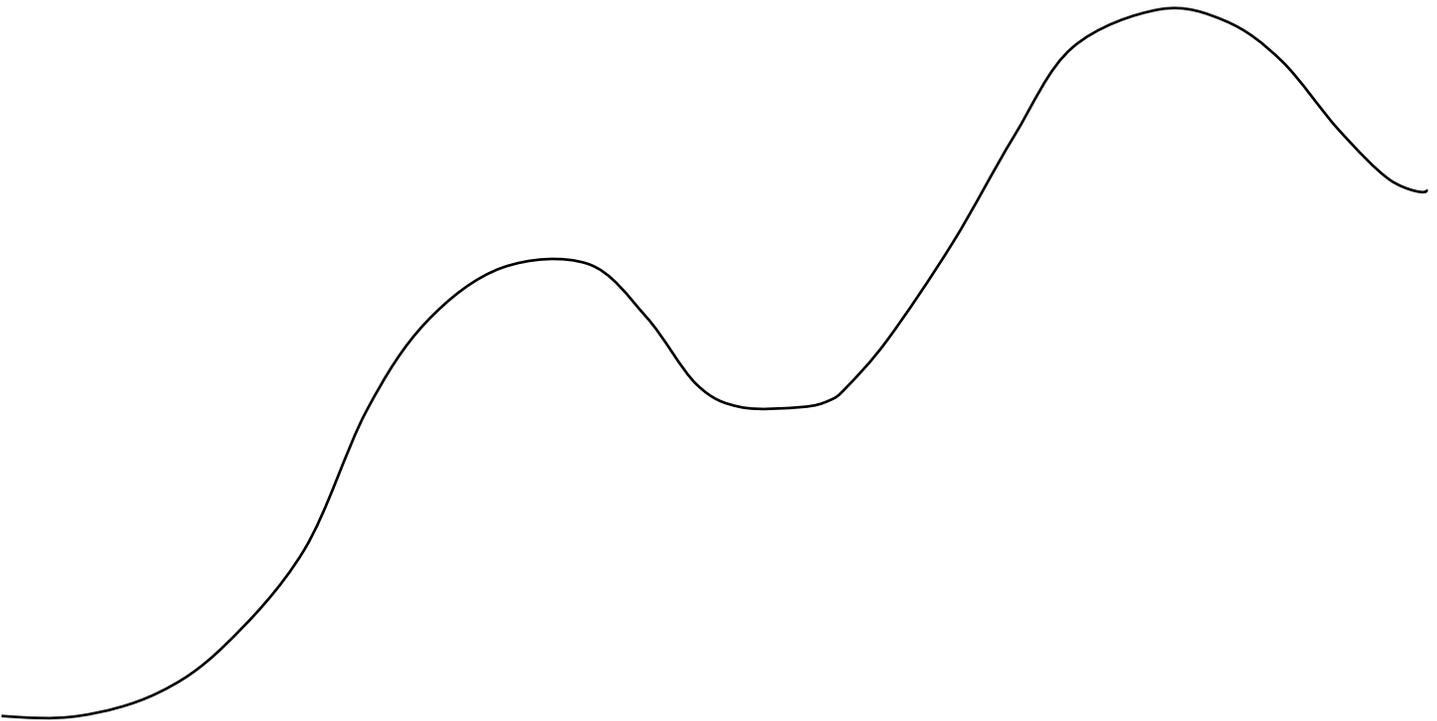
Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies

Day 1	Isaiah 43:1-13 – God’s Protection
Day 2	Acts 5:17-32 – Obey God, Not Men
Day 3	Romans 14:23-23 – Living by Faith
Day 4	Isaiah 45:1-13 – The Cyrus Prophecy
Day 5	Psalms 68:1-35 – Mighty Savior God

The Text: Daniel 6:1-28

Instructions

- 1) Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to His words.
- 2) Read the passage.
- 3) Using the story arc below, insert the verses according to how you see the story begin, grow, climax, fall, and finish.
- 4) Write out the main lesson of the story.
- 5) Write out some of the other lessons along the way.



Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the central lesson(s) in this story?
- 2) How did the administrators know that Daniel’s faith could be used against him?
- 3) According to Daniel, why does God deliver him from the mouths of the lions? How do we make sense of this in light of the laws of the Medes and Persians?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Despite the regime change, Daniel served the Medo-Persian King Cyrus as excellently as he had served Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian kings. How do you think Daniel was able to be a faithful servant to so many different kings and even two different regimes?

- 2) For the other administrators and satraps to know that they could use Daniel's faith against him meant that Daniel's faith was public and unflinching. If people in your place of work, or your friends, had to characterize your faith, would it be "public and unflinching"? If yes, how do you live out your faith? If no, what causes you to blend in more than stand out in terms of your faith in God?

- 3) When the decree came, Daniel could have prayed in his room with his window closed. Instead, he chose to open the windows towards Jerusalem, to thank God, and to ask God for help. *If he had closed the window to pray, what thoughts, desires, and emotions would have driven that behavior?* Would it have been sinful for him to close it?
 - i. Thoughts:

 - ii. Desires:

 - iii. Emotions:

- 4) In Romans 14:23, Paul says that everything that does not come from faith is sin. For Daniel to have closed the window that day would not have been an act driven by faith in God, but an act driven by fear of death. Often, we are not conscious of the thoughts, desires, and emotions that drive our actions. We purchase insurance without stopping to think—Is it fear or faith that drives this action? How can you grow in making decisions from faith, rather than from fear?

- 5) Although Daniel disobeyed the king's command regarding worship and prayer, he said to the king in verse 22, "My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I done anything wrong before you, Your Majesty." How is it that Daniel could say he had *not done anything wrong before the king* even though he disobeyed the king's command? What does this teach us about obeying God and man?

- 6) Daniel 6 is our final story in the study of exiles. What is the most impactful thing you learned about living as an exile in Babylon? How does this shape your identity—how you will live out your days in our symbolic Babylon?