



### Daniel and the Lion's Den:

1. Like Daniel, God's people living in exile are called to both engage and not engage the world.
2. What will happen when you both engage and not engage?
3. The hope and strength God provides to both engage and not engage.



### Daniel and the Lion's Den:

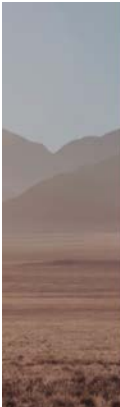
1. Like Daniel, God's people living in exile are called to both engage and not engage the world.



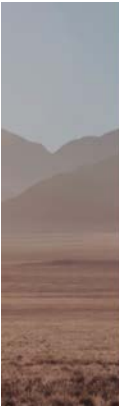
### ENGAGE the world

#### Daniel 6:1 – 5:


It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; 2 and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss.



3 Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. 4 Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, ...



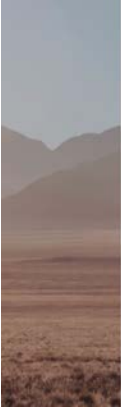
because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. 5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."



What engaging in exile looks like:

a) As exiles, God's people are to promote the good of society and world.


Verse 2: ...and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss.



What engaging in exile looks like:

a) God's people are to engage as "salt."


Matthew 5:13: "You are the salt of the earth."



What engaging in exile looks like:

b) God's people are to engage with Biblical integrity.

Verses 3-5: Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ...




4 Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. 5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."




**NOT ENGAGE the world**

**Daniel 6:6-9, 10-11**

6 Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever!



7 All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.



8 Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." 9 Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.





**(What happens next?)**

**Daniel 6:10–11:** When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.



**Thoughts/Takeaways:**

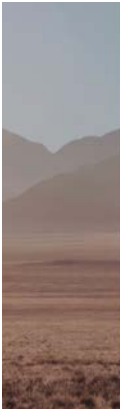
1) God's people must not engage when it comes to assimilation or compromise.

Acts 5:21: But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."




**Thoughts/Takeaways:**

2) Instead, there must be "a beautiful resistance." There must be the joy of conviction in a culture of compromise. (Jon Tyson)



**Daniel 6:10–11:** When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.



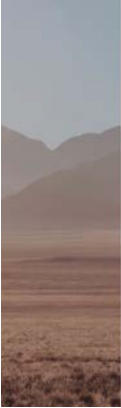
Jon Tyson: "Should we just give up and capitulate to the powers of our time? Should we sit by while our faith is taken captive by political and ideological forces (left, right, center)? Should we avert our eyes while mammon wreaks havoc on our hearts? Should we watch 20 million young people leave the church in our generation?...Is it possible to build community in such a way that though it is small, generations to come will look back on our faithfulness in a generation of compromise?"



**Daniel and the Lion's Den:**

1. Like Daniel, God's people living in exile are called to both engage and not engage the world.


**2. What will happen when you both engage and not engage the world?**




**What will happen when you both engage and not engage the world?**

**Two things:**

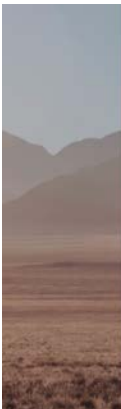
**1) There will be unavoidable conflict.**



**Daniel 6:12–16a:**12 Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, “O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” The king answered and said, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.”



13 Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.” 14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him.



15 Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.” 16 Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions.



**There will be unavoidable conflict.**

**a) Christians should not be surprised.**

John 15:19: If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.




**There will be unavoidable conflict.**

**a) Christians should not be surprised.**

**b) Christians should not be in despair.**





"Christian character is not *forged* in the moment of adversity. Christian character is *revealed* in the moment of adversity."

-Daniel Akin



**What will happen when you both engage and not engage the world?**

**Two things:**

- 1) There will be unavoidable conflict.
- 2) **Your life will repel some people and be attractive to others.**



**Daniel and the Lion's Den:**

1. Like Daniel, God's people living in exile are called to both engage and not engage the world.


2. What will happen when you both engage and not engage the world?

**3. The hope and strength God provides to both engage and not engage the world:**



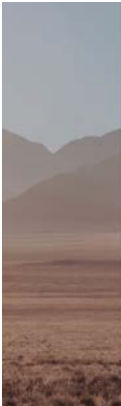
**3. The hope and strength God provides to both engage and not engage the world:**

**The living God whom we serve is the ultimate Deliverer!**




**Daniel 6:16–24:**


16 Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!" 17 And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ...



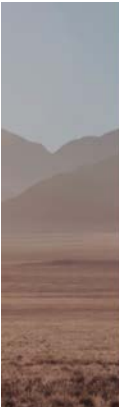
18 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him. 19 Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. 20 As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" ...



21 Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm." 23 Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. ...



So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. 24 And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

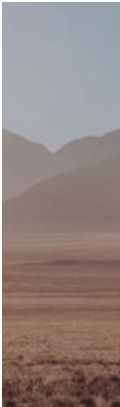


The living God, whom we serve, is the ultimate Deliverer!

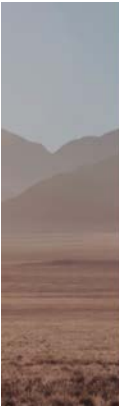
Living God: God is alive and at work in exile!

Whom we serve: God does not exist to serve us but we serve God.

Ultimate Deliverer: God delivers Daniel from the lion's den.




*The story of Daniel and the lion's den is so well known, and yet it has often been taught in a way that has not only been unhelpful but hurtful.*



*Jesus is the true and greater Daniel who went into the ultimate lion's den for us.*

*Jesus, the living God whom we serve, is the ultimate Deliverer!*

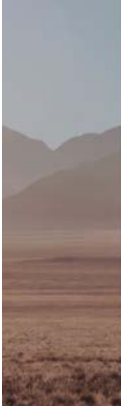


*When we see Jesus going into the ultimate lion's den for our sake, we will be able to confront the various lion's dens in our lives.*




The last section:

**Daniel 6:25–28:** 25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: “Peace be multiplied to you. 26 I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel,




for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. 27 He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.” ...



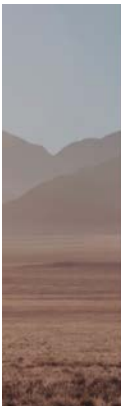
Verse 28: So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.



Closing Prayer (drawn from Scotty Smith)

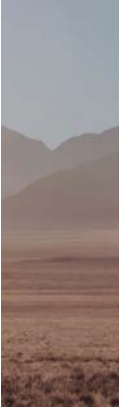


*Dear heavenly Father, I am so drawn to the heart which beat in Daniel’s breast—a heart filled with praise for you, not a preoccupation with his life. He just learned of a decree that anybody praying to any other god or man but King Darius would become the lions’ lunch. So what did he do? The same thing he’d been doing for decades in Babylon.*

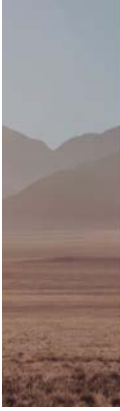


*The windows are open, his knees are bent, his gaze is set; and even before he asks you for help, he offers you thanks. He’s neither paranoid nor presumptuous, but he’s most definitely at peace.*






*Father, I long for much more of Daniel's peace and praise to mark my life—no matter how difficult my circumstances, intense the spiritual warfare, or out of control my world may feel. For even as "the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Pet. 5:8), he's already a defeated foe.*



*We live in the victorious day Daniel anticipated from afar. Indeed, your beloved Son, "the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed" (Rev. 5:5). Jesus is the Lion with whom I want to be thoroughly preoccupied—without any ultimate concern for any other kind of "lion's den" into which I might be thrown.*



*Father...please keep me fresh and green and fruitful through the gospel. Fill my heart with your glory and grace, freedom and hope; and use me however you choose, all the remaining days you give me in...your world. So very Amen I pray, in Jesus' magnificent and merciful name.*



**Daniel**  
LIVING IN EXILE