

# Bible Class Notes – Studies in The Old Testament – Lesson 163

## Character Studies from Daniel and Nehemiah

**This week** – How patient and gracious God is to us even when we're proud.

*King Darius said to Daniel:  
 “Thy God Whom thou servest continually,  
 He will deliver thee.” Daniel 6v16*

### Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Daniel 6 v1-14 (Darius' decree – Daniel worships God)	
Monday	Daniel 6 v15-28 (Daniel unhurt, God kept him safe)	
Tuesday	Psalms 27 (Wait on the Lord, be of good courage)	
Wednesday	Psalms 28 & 29 (Praise for the God who helps)	
Thursday	Psalms 30 (Praise for the God who delivers)	
Friday	Psalms 31 (The Lord rewards the faithful and evil doer)	
Saturday	Psalms 54 & 62 (The Lord; my rock, salvation, defence)	

**Important Thought for us Today: What will we be remembered for?** Daniel was known for being a man of God; King Darius for being easily flattered and proud; the princes for their bitter, vengeful spirits to get their own way. We give so much thought for our future career or for our current enjoyment, but little thought to our character. Would we want ourselves as our best friend? Would we employ ourselves? More importantly - what does God think of us? Do we hold to God's standards no matter what; do we always tell the truth; are we honest and kind; are we caring or impatient; are we jealous or ready to be happy for others' success; are we funny but at the cost of someone else's happiness; are we mean or kind; are we selfish or giving? When we seriously think on our character, we see how sinful we are and how much we need the Lord Jesus Christ's forgiveness and righteousness. Only then will we be Christ-like, (displaying Christian characteristics), and be blessed as a witness for Him.

### Hymn 511 - Encourages us to put the Lord first and HE will provide!

1. Though troubles assail, And dangers affright, Though friends should all fail, And foes all unite	2. His call we obey Like Abram of old, Not knowing our way; But faith makes us bold:	5. No strength of our own, Or goodness we claim Yet, since we have known The Saviour's great name,
Yet one thing secures us, Whatever betide: The Scripture assures us, 'The Lord will provide.'	For though we are strangers We have a good Guide, And trust, in all dangers, 'The Lord will provide.'	In this our strong tower For safety we hide, Almighty His power: 'The Lord will provide.'

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

*This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.*

## Faithfulness or Spiteful Jealousy? Daniel Dares to Stand Alone

- **Daniel - Known by all as, “The Man of God”:** -
  - **Respected** - For over 70 years of his captive life Daniel had gained the respect of the world leaders of his time; holding distinguished positions in both the now defeated Babylonian Empire, and in the new Median-Persian Empire. **God blessed his stand.**
  - **Conscientious** - Daniel's obedience to God meant that his gifted ability was blessed by his total honesty; a rare and much desired combination by any leader or friend.
  - **Trustworthy** - All that Daniel said and did was open, fair, honest and sincere - reflecting all the qualities of the God that he loved and served. **He was Christ-like.**

**Challenge - Are we Christ-like in our behaviour; trusted by others in all we say and do?**

- **King Darius:** -
  - **Respected Daniel** - Darius felt so safe in honest Daniel's hands that he planned to set him in charge of the whole empire, above all the other presidents and princes.
  - **Proud** - Although Darius enjoyed Daniel's godliness and the benefits that it brought to him and his empire, he would not make Daniel's God his own God. He refused to accept that he was a sinner and needed to be humbled before God.

**Challenge - Do we want Christian morality but not accept we need forgiveness of sin?**

- **Daniel's Rivals:** -
  - **Jealous and Hostile** - Darius' favour for Daniel made the other presidents and princes jealous and angry; hating his honesty and plotting his downfall.
  - **Devious** - Daniel's conduct was so exemplary that they could not accuse him of any wrongdoing unless he was forced to go against God's law. They chose the commandment – *‘Thou shalt have no other gods before me.’* They flattered proud Darius, persuading him to pass a law that for 30 days no one could petition (pray to) any god other than himself. To disobey – punishment of death by lion mauling.

**Challenge - Do we achieve our aims with dishonesty and deceit or by prayerful trust?**

- **Daniel's Reaction:** -
  - **Faithful, Courageous and Close to God.** Daniel continued his usual practice of kneeling unashamedly at his open window three times a day to pray to his God. He would not alter the worship of his God because of the threat of a violent death. His rivals were triumphant when he was caught and Darius was devastated when he realised that it was his pride that caused the death sentence to be served on Daniel.

**Challenge - Will we openly trust and obey the Lord no matter what the threat is?**

- **Thrown to the Lions but:** -
  - **Protected and Safe** - Daniel was blessed knowing the Lord's presence in the most threatening of circumstances. The Lord miraculously kept him safe in the lion's den. **God has promised that He will always be with His people to strengthen and uphold us. Is the God of Daniel your God? Will you dare to stand alone for your God?**

*Can we say with David? The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore, my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him. Psalm 28 v 7*