

1. The sentence is carried out against Daniel. (v. 16-20)
2. The king's actions demonstrate that he held out hope that Daniel's God could deliver him, but his "anguished" voice says that he did not believe it was likely.
3. In verses 21-28 we find Daniel's deliverance account and the next decree of Darius.
4. The reason for Daniel's miraculous deliverance is stated in the last phrase of verse 23.
5. Daniel's integrity had been vindicated by God himself. Now the king commanded that those who had "falsely accused" the prophet should be thrown into the den of lions. (verse 24)
6. It seems cruel to us that the families were destroyed along with the conspirators, but that was an official Persian law and the conspirators knew it.
7. We find an affirmation to the sovereignty of God in verse 27.
8. The chapter closes in verse 28 with a brief historical note concerning Daniel.
9. In this biblical account faithfulness is exemplified:
  - Daniel was faithful in old age, in his godly example (v. 5)
  - In his own prayer life (v. 10)
  - In the trials and testing (v. 16)
  - In testimony and his deliverance (v. 22)
  - It provided an opportunity for a witness to unbelievers (vv. 26-27)
  - Daniel was blessed (v. 28)
10. For a variety of reasons it is generally agreed that chapter 7 is the single most important chapter of the Book of Daniel.
11. Why is this chapter so significant? Daniel 7 is "a transitional chapter." The vision Daniel received provides the most comprehensive and detailed prophecy of future events found anywhere in the O.T.
12. Daniel traces the course of four great world empires - Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, the closing of world history and the second coming of Jesus Christ - the inauguration of the eternal kingdom of God - represented as a fifth and final kingdom which is from heaven.
13. In the visions beginning in chapter 7- much more detail is provided concerning the four kingdoms, particularly the final phase of the fourth.
14. God's messages were of the utmost value to Daniel and his people - through them God assured the Jews that the nation of Israel would endure.
15. After Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians, the Jews were taken into captivity, and the kingdom of Judah ceased to exist.

16. Even when the small group under Zerubbabel returned to Judah, the future of the southern kingdom was uncertain.
17. But God made clear to the Jewish people through Daniel that Israel would continue to have a place in history and that their promised Messiah would come and deliver them from spiritual and national bondage.
18. The Messiah would set up His kingdom and reign over the nations with Israel raised to a place of prominence.
19. Just as believers today are unaware of the exact time of the coming of the Lord, so Old Testament saints did not know when Daniel's prophecies would be fulfilled.
20. The visions of chapters 7–12 are given in chronological sequence.
21. The order is as follows: (1) chap. 7—first year of Belshazzar, (2) chap. 8—third year of Belshazzar, (3) chap. 9—first year of Darius the Mede, (4) chaps. 10–12—third year of Cyrus.
22. Thus the first and second visions came during the Babylonian period, and the third and fourth occurred shortly after the Medes and Persians began their rule.
23. The first two visions (chaps. 7–8) occurred before Belshazzar's feast (chap. 5), and the vision of chapter 9 preceded the lions' den episode of chapter 6.
24. However, the fourth vision (chaps. 10–12) is the last dated event in the Book of Daniel.