

# UNDER ATTACK

## THE LESSON: DANIEL 6

The “At Sea” section in the Prayer Book takes real-world struggles seriously. This is why it includes a prayer “with respect to the enemy”. Those who spend much of their lives travelling the seas and oceans know that danger comes not only from nature, but also from other people, such as pirates and hostile military forces. These concerns may not be part of daily life for many of us today, but we still know what it’s like to be under attack from those who wish to do us harm.

We know that ultimately our struggle is “not against flesh and blood”, but “against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12). Yet sometimes we find ourselves under attack from those who, whether consciously or unconsciously, are serving those forces; whose words and actions against us are hostile and malicious. In such moments it is entirely appropriate to pray for deliverance, as so many generations of believers have done before us.

So what is our proper attitude when we come under attack? It is *confident* in God’s might rather than in our own, knowing that God is in control, that Jesus has won the ultimate victory on the cross, and that God is able to work through even this situation for our good and his glory. It seeks God’s *strength* for the battle, and his *grace* to remain *faithful* whatever comes. And it earnestly desires to see God at work, so that we can *praise* him with the psalmist, saying, “you are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples” (Psalm 77:14).

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Remember Daniel? He was just a youth when his city was conquered and pillaged, and he was taken into captivity. Daniel lived most of his life in exile serving the kings of that conquering nation. But he was committed to remaining faithful to his God in all of this, a decision that did not always make for an easy life.

## AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

### Are you – or is someone you know – feeling “under attack”?

Bring the situation to God and close your time with the following prayer:

*Thou, O Lord, art just and powerful: O defend our cause against the face of the enemy.  
O God, thou art a strong tower of defence to all that flee unto thee: O save us from the violence of the enemy.  
O Lord of hosts, fight for us, that we may glorify thee.  
O suffer us not to sink under the weight of our sins, or the violence of the enemy.  
O Lord, arise, help us, and deliver us for thy Name’s sake.*

(PRAYER WITH RESPECT TO THE ENEMY, BCP P. 636)

### Has God brought you – or someone you know – safely through an encounter with “the enemy”?

Spend some time in thanksgiving and close your time with the following prayer:

*O gracious God and heavenly Father, we bless and glorify thy holy Name, for thy merciful deliverance from the recent peril of the enemy; and we humbly beseech thee to give us grace so to rejoice in thy saving power, that we may serve thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(THANKSGIVING FOR DELIVERANCE FROM A STORM OR FROM THE ENEMY, BCP P. 636)

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## DANIEL 6: **WHO'S THE STRONGEST?**

<sup>1</sup>It pleased King Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; <sup>2</sup>and over them three presidents, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. <sup>3</sup>Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other presidents and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. <sup>4</sup>Then the presidents and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel...

<sup>6</sup>Then these presidents and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live for ever! <sup>7</sup>All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counsellors 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..."

<sup>10</sup>When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open towards Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. <sup>11</sup>Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. <sup>12</sup>Then they came near and said before the king... <sup>13</sup>"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..."

<sup>16</sup>Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions... <sup>19</sup>Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. <sup>20</sup>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?" <sup>21</sup>Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live for ever! <sup>22</sup>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." <sup>23</sup>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...

<sup>25</sup>Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. <sup>26</sup>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 for ever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. <sup>27</sup>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." <sup>28</sup>So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.