

What kinds of dead ends
do people encounter?

What is it like to hit a dead end?

Are you, or someone you love,
at a dead end today?



When there is no way

Daniel 6
bib.ly/Da6



King Darius's fears

A new king in a vast kingdom

- Rebellion
- Lost tax income

Daniel 6

1-4: Daniel rose in power, and others plotted against him

5-9: They plotted to trap Daniel through His devotion to God

- “Why do the nations rage” against God? (Psalm 2)
- Swarm, conspire, mob (verses 6, 11, 15)

10: Daniel’s prayer life was unchanged by threat of death

11-15: The accusers pounced, and the king couldn’t save Daniel

16-18: Daniel was fed to the lions: king and Daniel at a dead end

19-24: Daniel was saved by God, and his accusers were judged

25-27: The king’s testimony:

- the living God whose kingdom never ends rescues and saves

28: God blessed Daniel in the new kingdom

The impossible situation for Daniel

- The 'swarming' and conspiring of so many high officials
- The unchangeable law of the Medes and Persians
- Not even the king could find a way to rescue Daniel
- The sealed pit so no one could rescue him
- Hungry lions and the powerful natural instinct to kill & eat

So the king asked: “Daniel, servant of the living God,
has your God, whom you serve continually,
been able to rescue you from the lions?”

Daniel: “My God sent his angel,
and he shut the mouths of the lions.”

The big idea...

**God uses His limitless wisdom and power
to deliver those who trust in Him**

“Servant of the living God”

- Not just alive
- Also
 - Active, powerful, awesome, almighty
 - AND He is actively involved in our world
- What no other power in the world could do, God did
 - And God does

The big idea...

**God uses His limitless wisdom and power
to deliver those who trust in Him**

(in His way and time, which is often deeper into trouble)

This does NOT mean God always delivers when or how we hope

- **The greater the challenge,
the greater the glory when God rescues**
- **Like Lazarus**

We wait with eager expectation for the full deliverance of God

- **At the resurrection at Jesus' return**

Until then, we will sometimes (often?) experience...

- **Divine silence & apparent inaction**

To grow and show our faith

And to show His greater glory

The big idea...

**God uses His limitless wisdom and power
to deliver those who trust in Him**

(in His way and time, which is often deeper into trouble)

Application

1. Trust the Living God

- Expressed in...
 - Praying to the Living God
 - Obeying God's instructions
- In the extreme
- By practicing trust in God in the mundane
 - If you and I aren't faith-filled in little, we won't be faith-filled in much

2. Give testimony to God's deliverance

The impossible situation for Jesus that saves us

- **The ‘swarming’ and conspiring of His opponents**
- **The unjust but unstoppable judgment against Jesus**
- **Not even the Roman governor could rescue Jesus**
- **Death itself**
- **The sealed tomb**

Jesus died to prove that not even death could hold Him!

**And it proved His total trust (prayer & obedience)
in the Father**

We are saved by His faithfulness and power

**Where are you encountering
a dead end?**

Pray to the Living God

He will deliver!

→ Maybe in this life

→ Certainly in the resurrection

Then give Him praise!

