

# Daniel 6:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

## Analysis

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The king's response reveals his character: 'Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.' Darius recognizes he's been manipulated. The phrase 'displeased with himself' shows appropriate self-blame—he signed the foolish decree. His efforts 'till the going down of the sun' demonstrate genuine care for Daniel and desperate search for legal loopholes. Yet even royal power cannot overcome the irrevocable law's constraints. This illustrates human authority's limitations—even well-meaning rulers can be trapped by unjust systems.

## Historical Context

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The irrevocable nature of Medo-Persian law meant even kings were bound by decrees once issued (cf. Esther 8:8). This differed from Babylonian practice giving kings more arbitrary power. Darius's day-long effort to find legal escape demonstrates both his regard for Daniel and frustration with rigid legal constraints. Ancient Near Eastern kings typically consulted legal advisors, religious specialists, and historical precedents seeking ways around legal difficulties. That sunset marked deadline suggests execution was scheduled for nightfall—increasing pressure on the king's desperate efforts.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Darius's frustrated efforts teach about human authority's limitations when constrained by unjust laws or circumstances?
2. What does the king's displacement with himself teach about responsibility—we bear consequences for unwise commitments even when manipulated into them?

## Interlinear Text

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אִיּוֹן	מֶלֶךְ א	כִּד י	מִלֵּת א	שָׁמַע ע	שָׁגִיא	בָּא ש
<b>Then</b>	<b>the king</b>	H1768	<b>these words</b>	<b>when he heard</b>	<b>was sore</b>	<b>displeased</b>
H116	H4430		H4406	H8086	H7690	H888
ל	ל	דָּנִי אֵל	שָׁם	לִבּוֹ	לְשִׁיבּוֹתָהּ	וְעַד
<b>on</b>	<b>on</b>	<b>Daniel</b>	<b>with himself and set</b>	<b>his heart</b>	<b>to deliver</b>	<b>till</b>
H5922	H5922	H1841	H7761	H1079	H7804	H5705
י	שָׁמַשׁ א	הוּא	מִשְׁתַּדֵּר ר	לְהַצִּלוֹתָהּ:		
<b>the going down</b>	<b>of the sun</b>	<b>him and he laboured</b>	H7712	<b>to deliver</b>		
H4606	H8122	H1934		H5338		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 6:26** (Kingdom): And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.

