

Daniel in the Lion's Den



After Babylon had been defeated by King Cyrus of Persia, a ruler named Darius set men up to rule over the kingdom as princes and presidents, one of the three highest men was the Jew Daniel who had been an adviser to Nebuchadnezzar; though Nebuchadnezzar's children had ignored Daniel after King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had died.

King Darius, a king of Persia and Media, liked Daniel above all the other princes and presidents, and these men were jealous and tried to find a way to discredit Daniel so Darius wouldn't like him anymore. Yet, no matter how they tried, they couldn't find anything wrong with Daniel. "We can't find anything wrong with Daniel," they said, "unless we find a way to turn his devotion to his God against him."



Together, the presidents and princes made a plan and went together to King Darius and said: "Long live King Darius. All the presidents, and princes and all other rulers that you have set over the kingdom have gathered together and wish to make a law that whatever any man in the kingdom might want to ask for from gods or even men for thirty days, should ask you to show your greatness. Any who don't, should be thrown into the lion's den. We ask that you sign this law so that it can be made a law that cannot be changed." Full of pride, King Darius signed the law.

Now, Daniel always prayed three times a day. So, even when he heard about the decree; he went home, opened his windows toward Jerusalem, knelt down, and prayed and gave thanks to God as always.



The other rulers, waiting to catch Daniel, saw him praying and went to the king. "Haven't you signed the law that forbids praying to gods on pain of being thrown into the Lion's Den?"

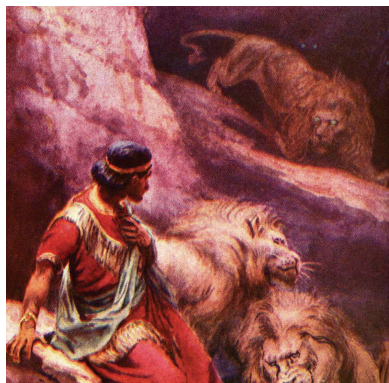
“That is true,” said the king, “I have made this a law of Media and Persia, and it cannot be altered; not even by me.”



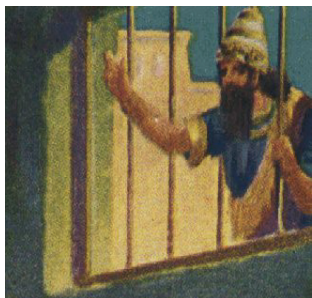
“But that Daniel from the children of the captivity of Judah ignores the decree and prayed to his God three times a day.”

When King Darius heard these words he finally realized what his pride had led him to do. He was angry with himself and searched until night in all the books of the laws of Media and Persia and elsewhere to find a way to save Daniel.

Again the princes and presidents gathered before the king and reminded him: “You know, O king, that the laws of the Medes and Persians cannot be changed, even by the king.”



Full of sorrow, the king commanded that Daniel be brought forward. When he was, the king told him: “Your God, who you serve always, he will save you.” And the king commanded that Daniel be cast into the den of lions. A stone was brought forward and pushed into the opening. Wax was put on the line of the opening and the king used his ring to put his seal on the wax so that no one would open it.



King Darius went back to his palace and spent the night awake, fasting without even a musician to calm his nervousness and sorrow. When the morning came, the king left early and raced to the lion's den. When he got there he cried: “Daniel, servant of the living God, were you saved from the lions?”

Then came Daniel's voice from the lion's den: “Long live the king. My God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions so they can't hurt me because I was innocent and I haven't hurt anyone.”

The king was filled with joy and he commanded that Daniel be let out of the lion's den and no one could find any injuries on him. Then the king commanded that those who planned evil against Daniel should be thrown into the den of lions where they would not be saved.

Then King Darius made a law for all the people that said that in every place he ruled over, every one should tremble in fear before the God of Daniel; because He is the living God, steadfast forever, and His dominion will never be destroyed or end. He frees and rescues; He works great signs and wonders. He has saved Daniel from the lions.

Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.