

## Who is in the Lion's Den?

### Daniel 6:1-23

PW Emerson – 2/24/2019 – Ten:27 Ministries

#### Daniel 6:1-23

It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom,<sup>2</sup> with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss.<sup>3</sup> Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.<sup>4</sup> At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.<sup>5</sup> Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

<sup>6</sup> So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever!<sup>7</sup> The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den.<sup>8</sup> Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”<sup>9</sup> So King Darius put the decree in writing.

<sup>10</sup> Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.<sup>11</sup> Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.<sup>12</sup> So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?”

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

<sup>13</sup> Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.” <sup>14</sup> When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

<sup>15</sup> Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.”

<sup>16</sup> So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

<sup>17</sup> A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. <sup>18</sup> Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

<sup>19</sup> At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. <sup>20</sup> When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

<sup>21</sup> Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! <sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

<sup>23</sup> The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Throughout the Bible we see time after time God’s deliverance of His people

- Jacob and his family, when there was a famine throughout the land

- The Hebrews delivered from slavery in Egypt
- Hebrews delivered from the Egyptian Army
- God delivered His people from the Midianites through Gideon
- God delivered His people from the Philistines through Samson
- God delivered the army of Israel from Goliath & the Philistines

Not only did God deliver people throughout the Bible ...

God continues to deliver people throughout history.

As someone who has worked with abused teens, I have seen and heard *MANY* times that God delivers victims from the hands of oppressors **AND** gives them a heart of compassion to help others!

The story of Daniel in the Lion's Den is important for us to take a look at because we are all in positions where we could find ourselves in a Lion's Den.

- Christianity is getting pushed further and further back to the background of our culture and out of the foreground

One of the most exciting things to note is that

**HARD WORK and RESPONSIBILITY GET NOTICED**

The King had noticed this – he was planning to appoint Daniel to oversee everything!

Verse 3

<sup>3</sup> Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

Not ONLY the king but so did some of the other leaders

Verse 4

<sup>4</sup> At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

Daniel isn't perfect.

But he does what he can to be honest, fair, and above all, **LOYAL TO GOD.**

His

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Devotion to the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob

**GOT NOTICED!**

Scientists now say that a series of slits, not a giant gash, sank the *Titanic*. The opulent, 900-foot cruise ship sank in 1912 on its first voyage, from England to New York. Fifteen hundred people died in the worst maritime disaster of the time.

The most widely held theory was that the ship hit an iceberg, which opened a huge gash in the side of the liner. But an international team of divers and scientists recently used sound waves to probe the wreckage, buried in the mud under two-and-a-half miles of water. Their discovery? The damage was surprisingly small. Instead of the huge gash, they found six relatively narrow slits across the six watertight holds.

Small damage, invisible to most, can sink not only a great ship but a great reputation.

Through this incident, the king learned

- NOT to go by appearance rather
- GOD IS IN CONTROL!

It could have been easy for King Darius to not go back and look for Daniel

- If Daniel's God was real, why didn't he keep Daniel from being thrown into the lion's den in the first place?

By letting Daniel be thrown into the Lion's Den,

- It became a demonstration of God's power
- What happened was a miracle that only God could have pulled off

People came to know God because Daniel was delivered from the Lion's Den

Others can scheme

LEADERS can scheme all they want

LIKE THE WAY THE PHARISEES SCHEMED AGAINST JESUS .....

God was in control!

Not long afterward I was calling someone who visited us a few months ago

- He and his family are losing their house – they have to be out by the end of the month
- Although he has a job he hasn't had it long enough to get credit so doesn't know how he could afford anything.
- He was not daunted.
- He was already thanking God for what God has already figured out and ordained to happen!

He ***KNEW*** that GOD IS IN CONTROL!

Not long afterward I got a text

I need prayer. I'm paying rent for my wife and I and had \$100 left. Then my sister asked to borrow that \$100 for her and her husband, who is out of work. What do I do?

How do I read that and not want to pull my hair out?

Because I know that GOD IS IN CONTROL!!

So when we are put into

- A difficult situation
- A seemingly impossible situation

What do we do?

What did Daniel do?

Verses 10 & 11

<sup>10</sup> Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened **toward Jerusalem**. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. <sup>11</sup> Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

In a life & death situation,

In the most difficult circumstance,

DANIEL TURNED TO GOD FOR GUIDANCE

Too often it seems like people turn to God out of a last resort.

“All I can do now is pray.”

Praying should be the **FIRST** thing we do.

We should be **EXCITED** to **PRAY!**

- God **KNOWS** everything!
- God cares!

God has the right answers!

Of **COURSE** Daniel turned to God for guidance!

I find it amazing that we don't do so more often!

I don't do a lot of marriage counseling, but when I do, one question I ask is,

“When is the last time that the two of you prayed together?”

- It's always a stutter
- Followed by the words, “A Long Time ...” and sometimes “never”

Verse 10 again

<sup>10</sup> Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened **toward Jerusalem**. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

Why did Daniel pray toward Jerusalem?

I Kings 8:35-36

<sup>35</sup> “When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because your people have sinned against you, and **when they pray toward this place** and give

praise to your name and turn from their sin because you have afflicted them,  
<sup>36</sup> then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people  
Israel.

BUT ... the best part about this event is

**GOD SHOWING WHICH KINGDOM IS REAL!**

What was the purpose of the coliseum / gladiators?

It was for CEASAR to show that he held the power of life & death!

- Caesar choose who lived and died!

ALL THE PEOPLE in the coliseum saw Caesar wielding his power!

HERE – Lion Den – God demonstrated that the king did NOT control life & death!

Rather the GOD of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob is the ONE true God and HE controls  
who lives and dies!

CONCLUSION

We will have times when it seems like we are in the Lion's Den.

What will we do?

Turn to God for Guidance?

Hold true to what we know to be right.

Keep our focus squarely on God – it will be noticed!

KNOW that God IS IN CONTROL! GOD RULES!

Max Lucado, *In the Eye of the Storm*, Word Publishing, 1991, p. 11.

Chippie the parakeet never saw it coming. One second he was peacefully perched in his cage. The next he was sucked in, washed up, and blown over.

The problems began when Chippie's owner decided to clean Chippie's cage with a vacuum cleaner. She removed the attachment from the end of the hose and stuck it in the cage. The phone rang, and she turned to pick it up. She'd barely said "hello" when "ssssopp!" Chippie got sucked in.

The bird owner gasped, put down the phone, turned off the vacuum, and opened the bag. There was Chippie -- still alive, but stunned.

Since the bird was covered with dust and soot, she grabbed him and raced to the bathroom, turned on the faucet, and held Chippie under the running water. Then, realizing that Chippie was soaked and shivering, she did what any compassionate bird owner would do . . . she reached for the hair dryer and blasted the pet with hot air.

Poor Chippie never knew what hit him.

A few days after the trauma, the reporter who'd initially written about the event contacted Chippie's owner to see how the bird was recovering. "Well," she replied, "Chippie doesn't sing much anymore -- he just sits and stares."

It's hard not to see why. Sucked in, washed up, and blown over . . . That's enough to steal the song from the stoutest heart.

When you are in such a situation, rest assured, God is in control!

God will get us through the Lion's Den!