

FROM THE LIONS' DEN TO THE ANGEL'S DEN



Lesson 7 for February 15, 2020

Daniel was the third ruler in the kingdom of Babylon. He was then appointed as one of the three governors under Darius the Mede in Babylon. He was more than eighty years old, and he was still as faithful to God as when he was taken captive to Babylon (Daniel 1).

- 🛡️ **A perfect man.** Daniel 6:1-5
- 🛡️ **A persecuted man.** Daniel 6:6-9
- 🛡️ **A man of prayer.** Daniel 6:10
- 🛡️ **A protected man.** Daniel 6:11-23
- 🛡️ **A vindicated man.** Daniel 6:24-28

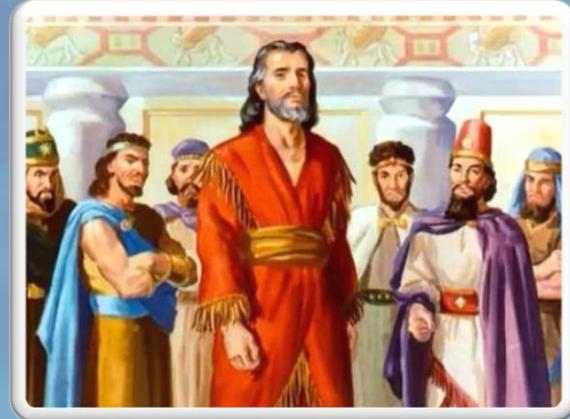


A PERFECT MAN

“So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.” (Daniel 6:4)

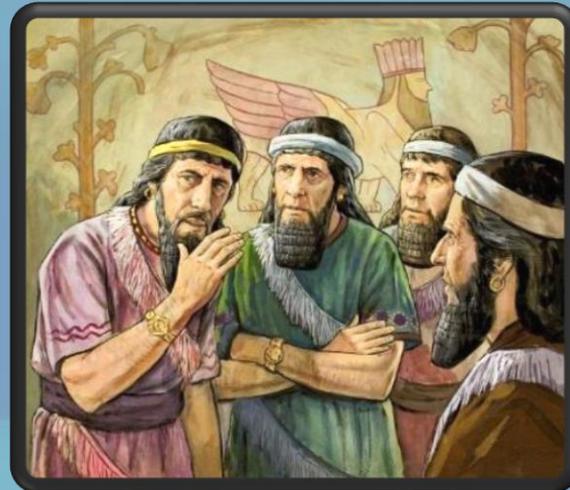
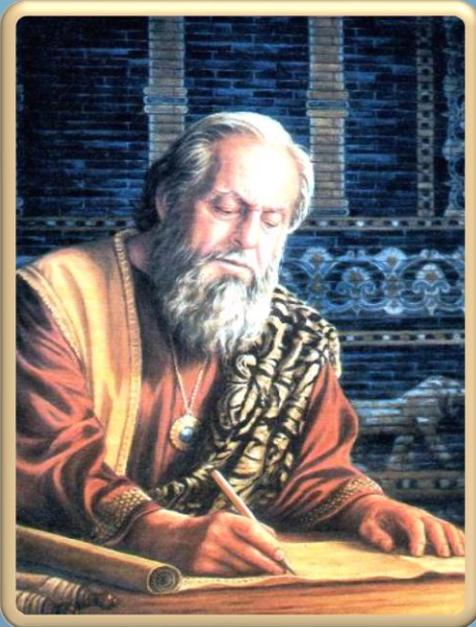
Darius noticed Daniel’s loyalty, so he thought he’d appoint him ruler over the kingdom.

That made the governors jealous (the old sin that caused Lucifer’s fall), because they wanted the position that was being offered to Daniel.



When they investigated Daniel, they found out that he was a good administrator. He was upright, hard-working, incorruptible, trustworthy, honest, faithful and loyal, with no bad habits.

They decided to use his faithfulness to attack him. They knew that he would stand firm and remain faithful to God’s law before the law of the kingdom.



A PERSECUTED MAN

“All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.” (Daniel 6:7)

In order to have a more efficient administration, the king had appointed 120 satraps. One of the risks of that organization was that any of them could try to use that power to plot against the king.



They suggested that, as a way to ensure the loyalty of all the leaders, all the requests should have to go through the king first during some time.

They also included the requests to the gods. This was both a gesture to the king's vanity (he didn't use to be a representative of the gods) and an attack against Daniel.

Once the law was signed, it couldn't be changed. Daniel was condemned... and the lions would have their dinner served.

A MAN OF PRAYER

"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days." (Daniel 6:10)

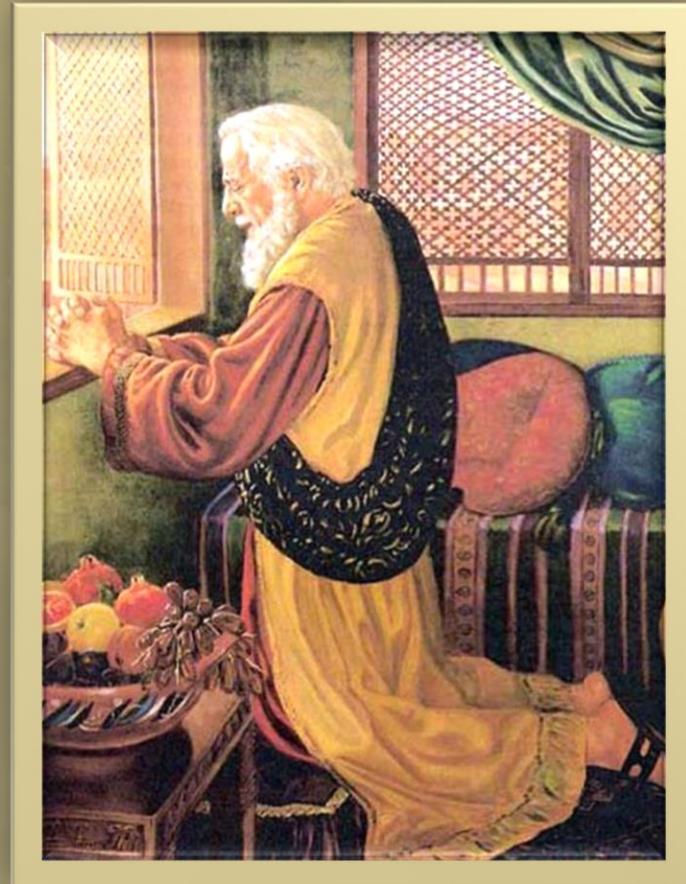
Despite the royal decree, Daniel didn't try to hide his prayer habits. He just continued praying towards Jerusalem as he had always done (2 Chr. 6:20-40).

Worship is the main point in the conflict between good and evil. Whom and how will we worship?

What will we do when our loyalty to God conflicts with the loyalty to our nation?

The decision we'll make depends on our attitude today.

Do I pray to God every day? Do I set Sabbath apart to worship God? How's my daily relationship with Jesus?



A PROTECTED MAN

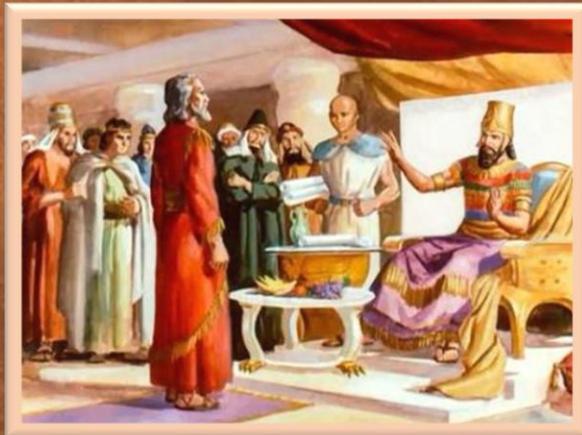
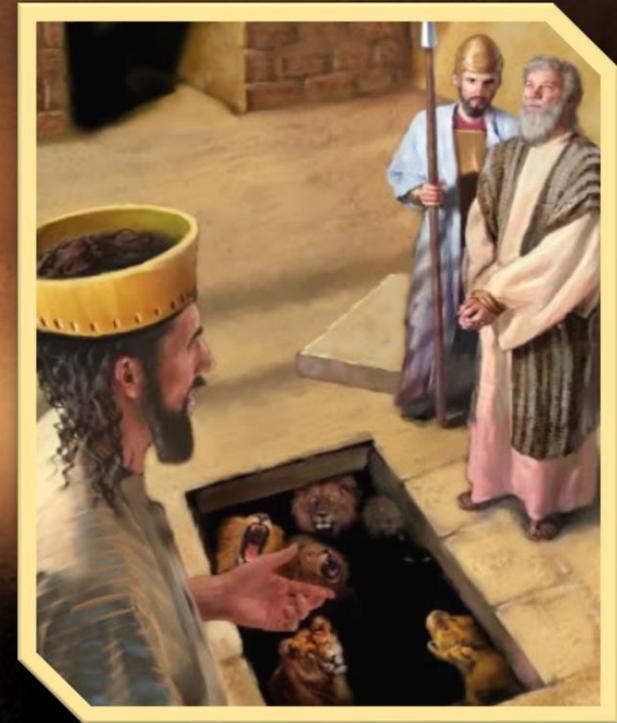
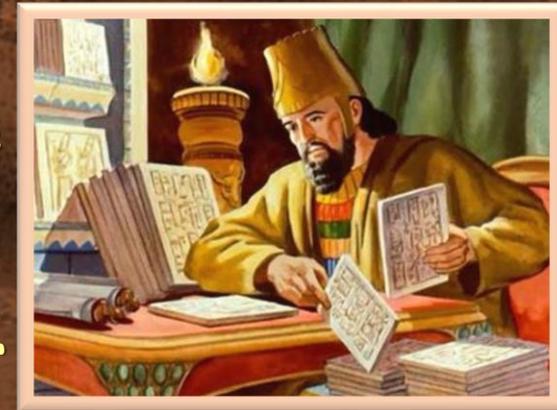
"And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him." (Daniel 6:14)

The governors introduced Daniel as a captive foreigner who was disobeying the king's orders. They intentionally omitted his great qualities.

This time, the king didn't fall for the trick. He sensed that the governors had bad intentions.

He spent the day trying to find a way to deliver Daniel from death, but he couldn't (John 19:12).

Daniel's faithfulness impressed the king so much that he exclaimed: "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you." (v. 16)

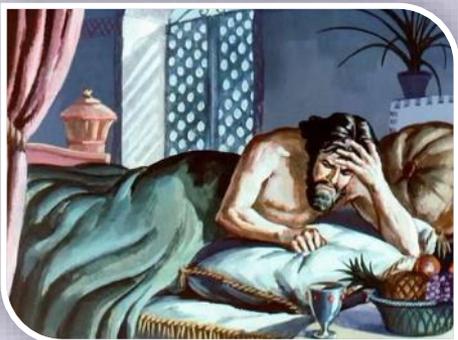


**And God sent
His angel to
protect Daniel**



A VINDICATED MAN

"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you." (Daniel 6:22)



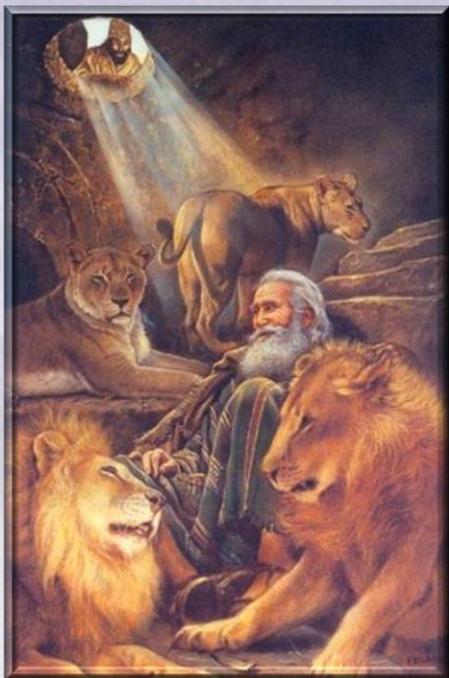
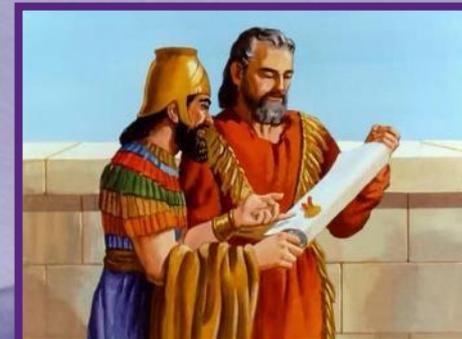
After a sleepless night, Darius went to the den at dawn. Would Daniel still be alive?

Daniel had paid for his "crime" according to the decree. Then, Darius turned to the true criminals (jealous, liars and traitors).

Their quick death contrasted Daniel's miraculous protection.

Darius vindicated Daniel and confirmed his position. Daniel served at this position until the third year of Cyrus at least.

He also vindicated the God of Daniel. This was a symbol of the final vindication, when every knee will bow before the King of kings.



“Although he [Daniel] was a man of like passions with ourselves, the pen of inspiration presents him as a faultless character. His life is given us as a bright example of what man may become, even in this life, if he will make God his strength and wisely improve the opportunities and privileges within his reach... He felt the need of refreshing his soul with prayer, and each day found him in earnest supplication before God. He would not be deprived of this privilege even when a den of lions was opened to receive him if he continued to pray...”

“Daniel loved, feared, and obeyed God. Yet he did not flee away from the world to avoid its corrupting influence. In the providence of God he was to be in the world yet not of the world. With all the temptations and fascinations of court life surrounding him, he stood in the integrity of his soul, firm as a rock in his adherence to principle. He made God his strength and was not forsaken of Him in his time of greatest need.”

E.G.W. (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, cp. 56, p. 569)