

# Daniel in The Lion's Den

The story of Daniel being cast into the lion's den is detailed in chapter 6 of the Book of Daniel. Daniel was promoted into a high position in the kingdom by King Darius the Mede. Daniel's enemies could find no fault to discredit him, so instead they conspired against him through jealousy and rivalry. They manipulated Darius into issuing a law that conflicted with Daniel's belief in God. This led to Daniel receiving the death penalty of being cast into a den of lions.



The story ends with Daniel's enemies being cast into the lion's den. The trap which they had set for Daniel, were themselves cast into. God's judgment came on them.

*At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.*

*(Daniel 6:24)*

Through God's favour on Daniel's life and his obedience, he held the position of administrator. He had previously served with distinction under king Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. Daniel had showed exceptional qualities, he was known for his wisdom, integrity and faithfulness to God. Due to his skills, Daniel had been promoted into a top position over the other administrators (Daniel 6:3).

Although Daniel was a faithful servant, he did not obey King Darius's decree that all people were to pray only to the king for thirty days. Daniel was aware of the decree that had been issued, but as usual he went home, knelt down, faced Jerusalem and prayed to God. He prayed three times a day with his windows open. His conspirers caught him praying, as they had intended and reported Daniel to the king. King Darius tried to save Daniel, but once a decree was issued, it could not be revoked. The king was reminded from Daniels' conspirers the decree could not be reversed and came under pressure to fulfil the decree and put Daniel in the lion's den. King Darius was distressed for having to punish Daniel.

*"May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you" (Daniel 6:16).*

There is nothing recorded of Daniel making an appeal, disputing the decree, or making a protest against it. A stone was placed over the mouth of the den. But God miraculously rescued Daniel by sending an angel to shut the mouths of the lions!

*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, O king." (Daniel 6:22)*

Daniel was unharmed because he had trusted God and was removed from the lion's den the next day. The King was overjoyed to find Daniel was still alive.

*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. (Daniel 6:23)*

Even though Daniel would have been an old man by this time, he still remained faithful to God. Daniel refused to compromise his faith. It would have been easier to obey the decree, like everyone else. As Christians today, we face the pressure to conform to the world's standards. According to Bible prophecy this becomes more intense in the last days.

Christian character is developed when our faith is being tested. God often allows trials for our faith to grow, or for other purposes we may not understand at the time. Daniel's test of faith led to God being glorified in a pagan kingdom. King Darius wrote to all the nations, a decree was issued in His Kingdom that the God of Daniel was to be revered.

*"I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.*

*"For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth.*

*He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."*

*(Daniel 6:26-27)*

The outcome is similar to when Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into a blazing fiery furnace for refusing to obey a decree issued by Nebuchadnezzar to worship an image of gold. They displayed their faith and trust in God. This showed God's deliverance in difficult circumstances. Daniel did not focus on how his enemies schemes had been successful. He focused on God, as he knew God was bigger than the lions and his enemies.

*"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8)*

## God will Shut the Mouths of your Enemies

God's angels have ability to shut the mouths of lions and are often sent to take care of the lions in our life. The devil is referred to as a roaring lion. He uses people to carry out his evil schemes, but God will shut the mouths of your adversaries and shut down the enemies plans.