

The Prayer of Daniel

(Interceding for His People in Captivity)

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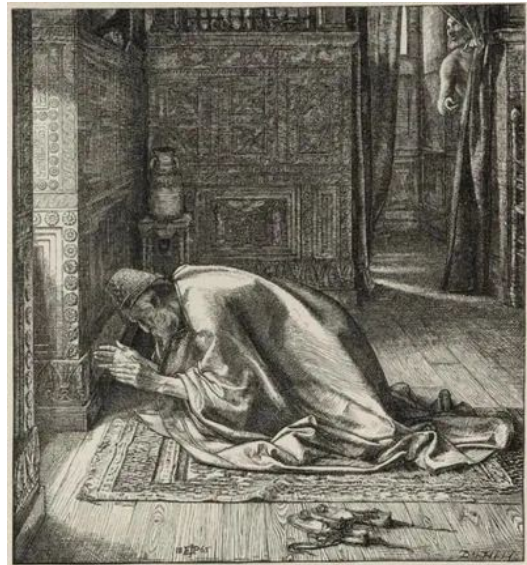
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The Situation

“It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom a hundred and twenty princes, who should be over the whole kingdom; And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts to them, and the king should have no damage. Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.” (Daniel 6:1-3 Webster)

According to what was mentioned above, Daniel was chosen above all the other princes in the realm. This of course caused jealousy among his peers as we can see in this next verse. *“Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.”* (Daniel 6:4 KJV) So, these fellow rulers couldn’t find any fault with Daniel. However, this didn’t stop them from coming up with an evil plan. For they persuaded the King to make it against the law to petition anyone other than the King himself. And if any do go against this law, they would be feed to the lions. And thus, the King put it into law.

“When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.” (Daniel 6:10 ESV) So, we see that this didn’t stop Daniel from praying to God. For he feared God more than man. *“Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.”* (Daniel 6:11 NIV)



Facing the Lions

So, there devious plan worked and they went and confronted the King on this matter. Then they reminded the King that he signed a decree and must follow through on what was written. *“When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.”* (Daniel 6:14 NIV) So, we see that the King favored Daniel and didn’t want any harm to come upon him. However, these men again reminded the King saying: *“Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed”.”* (Daniel 6:15 NKJV)

“So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you”.” (Daniel 6:16 NKJV) Wow, we see that the King himself had confidence in the God whom Daniel worshiped. This shows that Daniel’s faith in God was evident before all men. I pray to God that our Christian walk would have such an impact on those around us as well.

The Good News

“Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him. Then the king got up at dawn, at the break of day, and went in a hurry to the lions' den. And when he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king began speaking and said to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you continually serve, been able to rescue you from the lions?” (Daniel 6:18-20 NASB20) This again shows that Daniel’s life and manner touched the heart of King Darius. For not only did his Godly personality make him someone the King could trust, but he had seen in Daniel the true and living God as well.

“Then Daniel spoke to the king, “O king, live forever! “My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime.” Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.” (Daniel 6:21-23 NASB95) So, we see that Daniel’s faith in God was his source of deliverance. For we know that God hears those who put their trust in Him.

A Backfiring Scheme

“The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they threw them, their children, and their wives into the lions’ den; and they had not reached

the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.” (Daniel 6:24 NASB20)

So, we see that those who devised evil against Daniel were eventually punished in the end. And sadly, even their family members suffered the same fate as they did. However, from all this evil came such a great blessing as we can read: “Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: *“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.” So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*” (Daniel 6:26-28 NIV) So again, living a life that’s pleasing to God always has a good outcome in the end.

In Conclusion

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:28-31 ESV)

So, Daniel, being a man who set his heart upon God, was used in a mighty way in a land of Foreigners. And it’s the same for us today no matter where we are in this world. For this is not our home. Therefore, we wait for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has prepared something better for us who believe. For Jesus said: *“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”* (John 14:1-3 KJV)

Yes, let us wait with great expectations for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, taking heed to what Paul the apostle said. For we read: *“Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”* (Philippians 3:17-21 ESV) Therefore, let us trust in God in all situations, even as both Daniel and Paul the apostle did. Amen.

- Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV)
- Thou dost keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusts in thee. Trust in the LORD for ever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (Isaiah 26:3-4 RSV)
- Come to me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me: for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest to your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30 WEB)

Bible versions used in this article are listed below to aid you in your study of God's word. Therefore I encourage you to: "Study to show thyself approved to God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15 Webster)

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- RSV = The Holy Bible: Revised Standard Version containing the Old and New Testaments, translated from the original tongues: being the version set forth A.D. 1611, revised A.D. 1881-1885 and A.D. 1901: compared with the most ancient authorities and revised A.D. 1946-52. — 2nd ed. of New Testament A.D. 1971. There should be enough in the rest of the description to identify the text.