

22. IN THE LIONS' DEN



If we faithfully love and obey God and pray to Him, God will use us to tell many people about Him. And God will send His angels to protect us.

SUNDAY

On the night of Belshazzar's wicked feast, the Medes and Persians captured the city of Babylon. Belshazzar was killed, and the kingdom of Babylon ended. Now the Medo-Persian kingdom ruled the world.

Darius, the new king, put 120 men in charge of his kingdom. Three other men were in charge of those 120 leaders. Daniel was one of those three men. Except for Darius, they were the most important men in the kingdom.

Because Daniel loved and worshiped God, God helped him do his work perfectly. Daniel was such a good, wise man that Darius trusted him and planned to put him in charge of everything.

That made the other leaders very jealous, because they wanted to be most important. So they watched Daniel very closely. If they could find him doing something wrong, they could tell Darius about it, and Daniel would lose his job. But did Daniel do anything wrong? **Daniel 6:4.**

So the jealous men tried to think of another way to get rid of Daniel. They knew that Daniel prayed to God three times every day in front of his open window, and that he didn't let anything change his habit.

They felt sure that they could get rid of Daniel if they could think of a way to use his faithfulness to God as a way to trap him.

Can people be sure that you faithfully worship and obey God?

MONDAY

The leaders of Medo-Persia were jealous of Daniel because he did what was right and they didn't. They wanted to get rid of Daniel, but they couldn't find anything bad about him. So they decided to use his faithfulness to God as a way to trap him.

The leaders wrote a new law that they were sure would help them get rid of Daniel; and then they went to see Darius. First they flattered him by saying that the new law would make him more powerful and important. People would respect and honor him even more. Then they asked the king to sign the law. Once he signed that law, could it be changed? **Daniel 6:8.**

Do you know what that law said? It said that no one could pray to God, or even to an idol, for thirty days. People could only pray to and worship King Darius. It also said that anyone who prayed to God would be

put into the den of lions.

Was that a good law? Oh, no! But Darius signed it anyway. He did not stop to think about his friend Daniel.

When Daniel heard about the law, he knew that the jealous men were trying to get rid of him. What would Daniel do now? Would he still pray to God where everyone could see him?



TUESDAY

King Darius had signed a law which said that everyone had to pray to him. Anyone who prayed to God would be put into a place where hungry lions were kept. What did Daniel do when he heard about that law? **Daniel 6:10.**

Early the next morning, Daniel opened his window, knelt down, and prayed out loud to God. Who do you think were watching him? Those wicked, jealous men. And they kept watching and listening all day long.

At noon Daniel went to his house, opened his window, knelt down, and prayed to God. In the evening he did the same thing again.

Did Daniel stop praying because those men wanted to get rid of him? Did he hide so that people would think he had stopped praying to God? No. Daniel wanted to be close to God all the time. And now he needed to pray more than ever, didn't he?

In the morning the men rushed to tell the king that they had seen Daniel praying to God. They asked, "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?"

It was true, the king agreed. He had signed that law, and it could not be changed.

Then what did the men say? **Verse 13.**

WEDNESDAY

What did Daniel do when he heard about the new law? He prayed in front of his open window three times that day, just as he had always done. Then the jealous men told the king that Daniel had disobeyed the law by praying to God instead of praying to the king.

Darius was very upset with himself. Now he knew why those men had wanted him to sign that law. They didn't want to honor the king; they wanted to get rid of Daniel, his best helper!

All day long Darius tried to find a way to save his

friend from being put into the lions' den. But when evening came, the wicked men reminded Darius that the law could not be changed. So Darius told his servants to put Daniel in the lions' den. What did he say to Daniel? **Daniel 6:16.**

After Daniel was put in with the lions, men covered the opening of the den with a big stone. Then Darius went to his palace for the night.

But Darius was so upset that he didn't want to eat any supper or listen to any music that evening. When he went to bed, he couldn't sleep. Very early in the morning, Darius jumped up and rushed to the lions' den.

What would he find? Would Daniel still be alive? Was Daniel's God able to save him from the lions?

THURSDAY

All night long Daniel stayed with those hungry lions. But not one of them tried to hurt Daniel. They didn't even scratch him. Daniel was perfectly safe,

because God was taking care of him.

In the morning Daniel heard men taking away the stone that covered the opening of the den of lions. Then he heard King Darius say, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

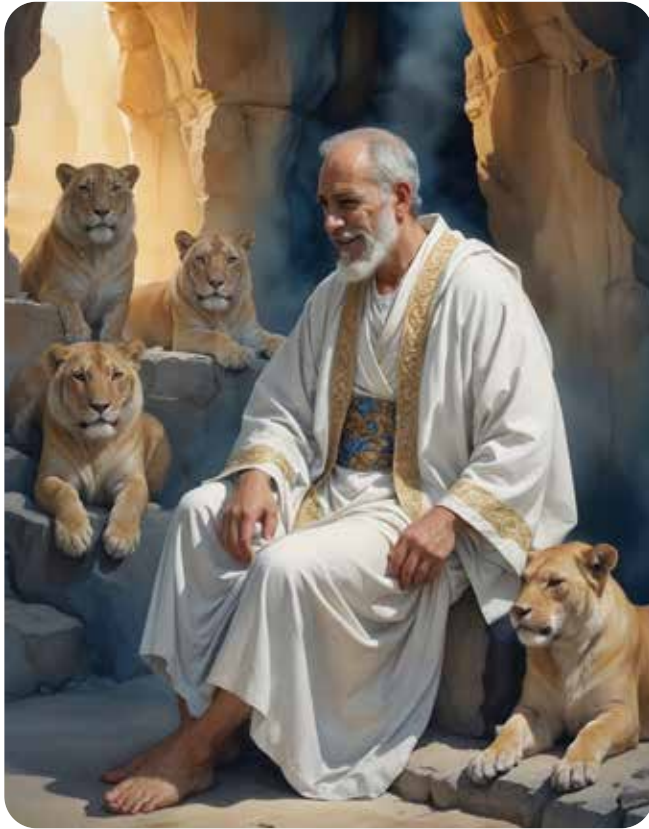
What did Daniel say? **Daniel 6:21, 22.**

King Darius was very happy to hear Daniel's voice. He quickly told his servants to take Daniel out of the lions' den right away. When Daniel finally stood before the king, everyone could see that he wasn't hurt at all. God had taken care of him.

The king was angry with the wicked men who had tried to kill Daniel, his friend and his best helper. He told his servants to put all of Daniel's enemies into the lions' den. So that day they all died. Now Daniel could worship God and no one would bother him.

Now Darius knew for sure that the God of heaven was the only true God. He wrote a letter to all the people in the world which said, "The God of Daniel ... is the living God, and steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed."





FRIDAY

Because Daniel was faithful to God, God saved him from the hungry lions. But his wicked enemies were put into the lions' den where they died. After that King Darius made another law. Would you like to hear what his law said? You can read it in **Daniel 6:25–27**.

King Darius wanted everyone in the world to know about the God of heaven and worship Him, because He helps those who love and obey Him.

Daniel was King Darius' most important helper. And the story of what happened to him must have been told over and over throughout the kingdom of Medo-Persia. People who heard that story could tell that Daniel's God was the true God. No one else could keep a man safe from all those hungry lions.

By now Daniel was an old man. Because he was so wise and good, the kings of both Babylon and Medo-Persia had made him their most important helper. And because he was faithful and obedient to God all his life, he could help the heathen learn about God's power and love. What wonderful things God can do through one person who loves and obeys Him!

You are only one small person. But if you faithfully love and obey God, He will use you to tell many others about Him. Are you learning to be faithful and obedient?

♥ MEMORY VERSE

"The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them." Psalm 34:7

I studied my lesson and practiced my memory verse today.

S M T W T F S

✋ MY PRAYER

Dear God, thank You that Daniel kept praying, even when he knew that he would be put into the lions' den. Please help me pray every day, too. Please help me tell others about You. In Jesus' name, amen.

💭 THINK TIME

Why didn't the leaders of Medo-Persia like Daniel?

Did King Darius like Daniel?

Did Daniel keep praying even after the new law was made?

Did Daniel need to pray every day?
How many times did he pray each day?

Do you need to pray every day? How many times do you pray each day?

Who saved Daniel from the lions?

Did Daniel tell the heathen about God by the way he lived? Does your life tell others about God?

🔍 FURTHER STUDY

Daniel 6

Prophets and Kings, pp. 539–548

The Bible Story, vol. 6, pp. 55–59

Children's Century Classics, vol. 3, pp. 162–166

AMY MAKES A FRIEND

—Amy in Burma, part 22. By Amy Sherrard



Amy had been looking out of the round window in their cabin on the ship while Mommy unpacked the things they would use before their first stop in Ceylon. Now everything was tidy. On a tiny table between the beds she had put a Bible, a box of desserts, and a strange-looking book that their friends in Burma had given them before they sailed away.

“These are big!” Mommy said as she looked into the box of desserts. “We could easily eat them all up before long, but that wouldn’t be very good for us. Every day after dinner, let’s cut one of the desserts into three pieces—one for each of us. That will be a special treat, and it will make them last longer.” Amy and Daddy thought that was a good idea.

Then Amy picked up the strange-looking book. “How does this book work?” she wanted to know. “The pages are all folded up so you can’t read them!”

“It’s a special book with enough pages for us to open one page each day on our trip,” Mommy explained. “Each page is like a little letter from one of our friends.”

“What a nice idea! I wish I could open them all right now! May I at least open the first one?” Amy begged. Mommy said to go ahead, so she carefully unfolded the first page.

“Oh, look! It’s beautiful!” she exclaimed, and Daddy and Mommy agreed. Amy read the lovely poem and the kind words written on the page. Then she carefully folded the page again. They knew that the book was going to be a treat—even better than the desserts!

That evening at worship time, they asked God

to take care of them and help them be good missionaries during their trip. They also thanked Him for their kind friends.

Soon the gentle rocking of the ship and the sound of splashing waves put them all to sleep; and before they knew it, morning had come.

For a few seconds, Amy didn’t know where they were. Then she remembered. They were on their way to a new home in a strange country!

It didn’t take long to get dressed and comb Amy’s long hair; and after family worship, they went to their first breakfast on the big ship. In the large din-

ing room, the passengers sat at long tables covered with white tablecloths. Waiters dressed in white came from the kitchen with trays of food balanced on one hand. They held the trays high above the people they passed. It was fun watching them, and breakfast tasted good.

Daddy and Mommy had brought canvas deck chairs to stretch out on. Amy had a little rocking chair, and lots of fun things to do. She really enjoyed her paint box and coloring pictures.

There weren’t many other children on the ship, so Amy was pleased when she saw another little girl. They smiled at each other, and soon they were friends.



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