



Saturday, 8/1/20 at 4:00 | Sunday, 8/2/20 at 9:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Are you afraid of lions? This happened to me many years ago... Since then, *I have learned that lions* ▶are very strong, ▶are very fast, and ▶very thoroughly devour their prey! Thinking about those realities, what did Daniel do when threatened with the den of lions?

- Setting:** ¹ It pleased Darius [the king of Babylon] to set over the kingdom 120 satraps [provincial officials], to be throughout the whole kingdom; ² and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. // So the structure was **1** king, *Darius*; **3** three high officials, including Daniel; and **120** satraps, govt. officials.
- Jealousy:** ³ Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ Then the high officials

and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel..., but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful... //

Daniel was ▶a foreigner and ▶about to be promoted over the others; they tried to discredit him, *but they could not!*

3. **Trap:** ⁵ Then these men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.” ⁶ Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him... ⁷ All the high officials of the kingdom... are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction [*a ban*], that whoever makes petition [*request or prayer*] to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸ Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed...” ⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction. // The king probably had no idea that those men were scheming to get rid of Daniel, so he signed! *Leaders must be wise!*
4. **Trust:** ¹⁰ When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house... He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. // Daniel DID NOT permit a government rule stop him from praying to God, *even though the penalty was the den of lions!* What about us: Who is the dominant voice in our lives, is it ▶God’s Word, ▶our government, ▶our peers, or ▶our sinful nature? If it’s not God and His Word, **let us** ▶repent, ▶be like Daniel, and ▶show our trust in God – *regardless of the penalty!*
5. **Snitches:** ¹¹ Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.

¹² Then they... said before the king, concerning the injunction...¹³ ... “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.” // Their plan was progressing as they had hoped: ♦The ban was put in place; ♦Daniel had disobeyed the ban; and ♦the king was fully aware of the situation.

6. **King:** ¹⁴ Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed [*because he liked Daniel*] and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. ¹⁵ Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.” ¹⁶ Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” ¹⁷ And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him. // Evildoers had brought trouble upon Daniel and the king; *they have also brought trouble upon us and our Lord Jesus Christ!*
7. **God:** ¹⁹ Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰ ...he cried out in a tone of anguish.... “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” ²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! ²² My God sent his angel and shut the

lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me..." ²³ Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den.... and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. // Even though lions are ✓ strong, ✓ fast, and ✓ ferocious, "no kind of harm was found" on Daniel! As God thoroughly protected him from the lions, so God – through Jesus – will thoroughly protect us from eternal punishment!

8. **Reversal:** ²⁴ And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions-- they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces [those lions were certainly strong, fast, and ferocious]. ²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth... ²⁶ I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. ²⁷ He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions." ... // In this life we who believe in Jesus seem like the losers, while the evildoers seem like the winners; however, the end of Daniel 6 is pointing to Jesus' return, which will include: ✦the final judgment, ✦eternal punishment for some, and ✦eternal rewards for others!

Let Us Pray: Dear F, S, and HS, as Daniel lived according to his unwavering trust in You, so help us to always do the same!

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