

Daniel in the Lions' Den

The Story (Daniel – Chapter 6)

The king of Babylon was a man named Darius. He liked Daniel very much because Daniel was so kind and wise. Darius chose Daniel to be a chief ruler in his kingdom. This made other men in the kingdom jealous of Daniel, so this is what they did.

They went to Darius and said: 'We have agreed, O king, that you should make a law saying that for 30 days no one should pray to any god or man except to you, O king. If anyone disobeys, then he should be thrown in with the lions.' Darius did not know why these men wanted this law made. But he thought it was a good idea, so he put the law into writing. Now the law could not be changed.

When Daniel learned about the law, he went home and prayed, just as he always did. The bad men knew that Daniel would not stop praying to Jehovah. They were happy, because it seemed that their plan to get rid of Daniel was working.

When King Darius learned why these men wanted to make this law, he was very sorry. But he could not change the law, so he had to give the command for Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den. But the king told Daniel: 'I hope that your God, whom you serve, will save you.'

Darius was so upset he could not sleep that night. The next morning he ran to the lions' den. He cried out: 'Daniel, servant of the living God! Was the God whom you serve able to save you from the lions?'

'God sent his angel,' Daniel answered, 'and shut the mouths of the lions so that they did not hurt me.'

The king was very glad. He commanded that Daniel be lifted out of the den. Then he had the bad men who tried to get rid of Daniel thrown to the lions. Even before they reached the bottom of the pit, the lions grabbed them and broke all their bones.

Then King Darius wrote to all the people in his kingdom: 'I command that everyone should respect Daniel's God. He does great miracles. He saved Daniel from being eaten by the lions.'