

03-11-2018

And The Rest Series #7

Daniel: The Lion Tamer

Hebrews 11:32-33 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions. (NIV)

Daniel 6:1-5 ¹It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, ²with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. ³Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

1. Daniel was a **Jew** who had distinguished himself in the kingdom of the Medes and Persians. V.1-3
2. He had impeccable **character**. V. 4
3. His **faith** was seen as his biggest weakness. V.3

Daniel 6:6-9 ⁶So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! ⁷The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. ⁸Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” ⁹So King Darius put the decree in writing.

1. The enemies of Daniel came up with **a plan** to destroy Daniel using his faith V.6-7
2. The enemies of Daniel took **advantage** of the unbreakable law of the Medes and the Persians. V.8-9

Daniel 6:10-18 ¹⁰Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. ¹¹Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹²So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?” The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” ¹³Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.” ¹⁴When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him. ¹⁵Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.” ¹⁶So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!” ¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. ¹⁸Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

1. Daniel continued to seek God’s help. V. 10
2. The enemies of Daniel caught him praying to God. V. 11
3. Daniel was convicted of breaking the decree and was sentenced to death. V.16-17

Daniel 6:19-28 ¹⁹At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. ²⁰When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?” ²¹Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! ²²My 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, Your Majesty.” ²³The 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. ²⁴At 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. ²⁵Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: "May you prosper greatly! ²⁶"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. ²⁷He 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." ²⁸So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

1. Daniel was **rescued** from the lion's den. V.19-23
2. Daniel's enemies were **thrown** into the lion's den. V.24
3. The king issued out a **new decree** for people to fear and hold reverence for the God of Daniel. V.25-28

What can we take away from the story of Daniel?

1. True faith in God will keep our **priorities** in order.
2. God **fights** for those who keep Him number one in their life.
3. **Integrity** will be blessed by God.
4. God receives **glory** when we are committed to keeping Him central in our life.