



DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN



Daniel 6

King Nebuchadnezzar, who brought Daniel and his friends from Judah to Babylon, had died. The new king, **King Darius, appointed Daniel as one of three main leaders over the whole kingdom.** King Darius was especially impressed with Daniel and planned to put him in charge of the whole kingdom!

The other leaders were jealous of Daniel. They wanted to find something Daniel was doing wrong so they could tell King Darius. But Daniel was an honorable man. He lived according to God's laws and was trustworthy. The leaders said, "We will never find any charge against Daniel unless we discover something that goes against his God."

They went to King Darius and convinced him to make a new law that would last 30 days. **The law said that if anyone prayed to any god or man except the king, they would be thrown into the lions' den. King Darius signed the new law** so that it was a permanent law and could not be changed.

When Daniel learned of this new law, he went upstairs to his house. He went to his window that looked toward Jerusalem, **got down on his knees, and prayed and gave thanks to God,** just as he had done three times a day, every day. **The other leaders went as a group and found Daniel praying to God, so they approached King Darius and told him that Daniel had broken the law.**

When King Darius heard this, he was very displeased. He was sorry he had made the law, but he could not undo it or take it back! So, **the king gave the order, and the leaders brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den.** King Darius said, "May your God, whom you serve always, save you!" The lions' den was sealed with a large stone.

King Darius was worried about Daniel all night long. **As soon as the sun came up, Darius hurried to the lions' den. He cried out, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Has your God been able to rescue you from the lions?"**

Daniel replied, "May the king live forever. My God sent his angel and shut the mouths of the lions. They haven't harmed me for I was found innocent before God."

The king was overjoyed. When Daniel was brought up from the lions' den, all could see that he was completely unharmed. King Darius then issued a new decree: "Everyone in my kingdom must tremble and fear the God of Daniel. He is the living God! He rescues and delivers!"