

What is Your Lion's Den?

What Situation are you **facing** right now
that is **causing** you to **consider** taking the **EASY way out?**

What Circumstance in your life would be more **easily 'handled'**
if you would **slightly "Adjust"** your **Bible-Centered** Convictions

What Situation could you **avoid** some **potentially painful**
consequences - by simply **"relaxing"** your **commitment** to God

Can You Hear Me Very Clear On This Point Please

Your Lion's Den is **NOT your Situation**

Your Lion's Den is **NOT your Circumstance**

Your Lion's Den is How you **HANDLE** that **SITUATION**

It's How you **HANDLE** that **CIRCUMSTANCE**

Circumstances & Situations **Come & Go** our **Entire Lives**

In this life we WILL have Trials & Tribulation

But those **Trials & Tribulations** are **NOT** the **Lion's DEN**

THE LION'S DEN IS:

How we **HANDLE**

How we **APPROACH**

How we **RESPOND** - - to those **Trials & Tribulations**

The **LION'S DEN** was **NOT Daniel's TRIAL !!**

The **Lion's Den** was the **RESULT**
of **HOW** Daniel **HANDLED** His **TRIAL !!**

Today - we get to **Re-Visit** (For MOST of us)
one of the **most familiar LESSONS** in the Entire **Bible**

But we're **NOT watching** a **Flannel Graph** Board
& **Eating Goldfish** Crackers **today**

We want to Re-Visit this Famous Lesson
with a **DIRECT Application** - to something **Genuinely**
HAPPENING in our lives - **Right Now** - **ok?**

Let's Pray

As we come to **Dan Ch 6** - **Daniel** is **80 yrs old**
& he's been **servng** in the **Govt** of **Babylon** for over **60 years**

In our **last msg** - We actually **saw** the **Kingdom of Babylon** **FALL**

It **FELL** to the **MEDE'S** & the **PERSIANS** - who had **joined forces**,
& would be **ultimately** called the **MEDO-PERSIAN Empire**

This **would be** the **2ND EMPIRE** from **Daniel's STATUE** of
"World-Ruling" Empires - From **Dan Ch 2**

& **there's** some really **cool Prophetic** stuff - about the **Fall of Babylon**
to the **Mede's & Persians** - I **couldn't fit** in **last** Msg

& I **CAN'T Fit It** in **today's** message either

So I'm **gonna try** to **keep** the **Prophecy** stuff w/ the **Prophecy**
Which is the **remainder of the book** - starting **next week**

But - as we **open Ch 6** - The **Kings** of the **Medo-Persian Empire**
are now **RULING Babylon**

& **God** has **again** - **PUT Daniel** in the **Highest** Possible **Position** in **the midst** of these **Pagan Rulers**

Daniel 6:1–3 (NLT)

1 Darius the Mede (representing the new ruling empire) **decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces, and he appointed a high officer to rule over each province.**

2 The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the high officers and protect the king’s interests. (notice Daniel’s High Position)

3 Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel’s great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire.

Again - **God** Sovereignly **raises Daniel** up to the **highest** possible **position** - **which is great . . .**

But the **other Officials** didn’t **exactly appreciate** the **King’s plan** for **elevating** Daniel to this **position**

Just like the previous **Officials didn’t appreciate** it back in **Ch 3** When **Daniel’s Friends** ended up in the **Fiery Furnace**

So, here we go again - Daniel 6:4–5 (NLT)

4 Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn’t find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy.

5 So they concluded, “Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion.”

Now **RIGHT THERE** - Should be **one** of the **Highest Goals**
of **EVERY Follower** of **Jesus Christ**

they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn in Daniel

THAT is one of my **HIGHEST GOALS** as a Pastor -
& **one** that I am **still far** from **attaining**

People pretty **regularly find** things to **criticize & condemn** me **for**

& it's **almost ALWAYS** in one area - **How I handle conflict** situations
because **I'm terrible** at **handling conflict** - (*the enemy knows well*)

& so **I've been** in this **10 yr REHAB program** with God

with the **Primary Goal** of me **NOT giving** people **GOOD REASON**
to **criticize & condemn me** over how I **handle conflicts**

I **haven't graduated** from the **program** yet - But it is **one of my**
HIGHEST GOALS in my **relationship** with God

Daniel Wouldn't need that **REHAB Program** - **Because** these guys
couldn't find anything to **criticize** or **condemn** him for

& **so** they say in V.5 - **Our only chance of finding grounds for**
accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion

Man - **What if** we Made **THAT our Prayer** ?

What if we made a commitment to live in such a way
that the **only thing** they could **ACCUSE us of** -
would be in **connection** to our **"Living for God"**

THAT has **EVERYTHING to DO**
With whether you **end up** in the **Lion's Den** or **Not**

Water you're commitment down - back down a notch
& you'll NEVER have to Worry about the Lions Den

In fact - if you're good enough at it
people won't even know you're a Christian

But Daniel's RIGHT-LIVING for God -
Didn't stop these Elected Officials

They easily put together a plan - to Take Daniel OUT
BASED on his commitment to God

Daniel 6:6–9 (NLT)

6 So the administrators and high officers went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius!

7 We are all in agreement—we administrators, officials, high officers, advisers, and governors—that the king should make a law that will be strictly enforced. Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions. 8 And now, Your Majesty, issue and sign this law so it cannot be changed, an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked."

9 So King Darius signed the law.

Now - there was probably a bit more "SCHMOOZING"
going on here - than what we have recorded

It was normal for the King to see himself as a god
But these guys Capitalized in a big way - on that Ego-Mania

& V.8 may be implying that they already had the law written -
& SCHMOOZED the King into signing it right there & then

& So . . . their Villainous Plan was "Set in Motion"

They **Created** the **OPPORTUNITY** for the **Lion's Den**
But DANIEL would **end up** there - **By His Own Actions**

They **SET Daniel UP** - But it was **Daniel's RESPONSE**
that **landed him** in the **Lion's Den**

Daniel COULD'VE very **easily avoided** this **entire situation**

But . . . Daniel 6:10–11 (NLT)

10 But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.

11 Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help.

Daniel, Daniel - Just a **little adjustment** in your **Commitment**
& you **could have avoided** this **entire thing**

COULD YOU NOT have just **set aside**
your **Daily routine** with God - **for just 30 days** ??

COULD YOU NOT have at least **Shut Your Windows & Door**
& **prayed** in **SECRET** for **30 days**

Daniel **YOU brought this** on **yourself** - Because you **were**
Unwilling To Bend even **1 inch** in your **Daily Commitment** to God

EXACTLY !!! - - - - **EXACTLY !!!**

**Did you know that Daniel is one of the FEW people in the Bible
w/ NO SINS RECORDED in the Eternal Scripture**

That's **NOT to say** Daniel was **SINLESS** - But almost **EVERY HERO**
of the Bible **has their SINS recorded** in Scripture - But **NOT Daniel**

WHY ??

Because **Daniel Would NOT BOW !!**

When he was **young** - he **taught** his friends **NOT to BOW**
& **now** that **he is OLD** - He **still REFUSES to BOW**

Although he is **obviously** a **Great Diplomat & Counselor**
(he couldn't be in his position otherwise)

Yet, **even** in this **High Position** - When it **comes** to his **commitment**
to God - **HE - WILL - NOT - BOW !!**

He **WILL NOT BEND** **because** of
the **DEMANDS** of his **CULTURE**

He **WILL NOT BEND** in **order to avoid**
a **potentially painful experience**

Notice again in V.10 - ***Daniel knelt down AS USUAL . . . & He
prayed three times a day, JUST AS HE HAD ALWAYS DONE,
giving thanks to his God***

THAT is **what you call** -
Being IN the World - But not OF the World

Can WE Tell the difference ??

Can we Tell the difference between BEING "IN" the World -
& BEING INFLUENCED BY the World

Can we FACE the situation we are in today
& NOT ALTER or ADJUST what is RIGHT before God

EVEN if it means having to face a Potentially PAINFUL Experience?

Very simply - Daniel's Commitment to God
was NOT ALTERED By His Circumstances . . .

Whether GOOD or BAD - - - Whether GOOD or BAD !!

& so - WHAT is YOUR Lion Den today?

What Situation are you facing today -
that would be a Little EASIER to GET THRU

if you would just LIGHTEN UP a little bit
on your commitment to God?

THAT is your LION'S DEN !!

NOT the SITUATION - - BUT the QUESTION . . .

WILL YOU adjust your commitment to God
in order to get thru this difficulty ??

The ANSWER to that question will determine
whether you FIND yourself in the LION'S DEN - or NOT

Let's see how it worked for Daniel

Daniel 6:11 (again) – to 13 (NLT)

11 Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help.

12 So they went straight to the king and reminded him about his law. "Did you not sign a law that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions?" "Yes," the king replied, "that decision stands; it is an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked."

13 Then they told the king, "That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day."

Guys - It was Daniel's unwavering stance for GOD that was earning him a TRIP to the Lion's Den

BUT - The King was NOT happy about it

Daniel 6:14–16 (NLT)

14 Hearing this, the king was deeply troubled, and he tried to think of a way to save Daniel. He spent the rest of the day looking for a way to get Daniel out of this predicament.

Notice the Good Relationship Daniel had with the King

15 In the evening the men went together to the king and said, "Your Majesty, you know that according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, no law that the king signs can be changed."

16 So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, "May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you."

The King figured out immediately - he'd been hood-winked -

But there was nothing he could do about it
The law of the King was IRREVOCABLE

Daniel's enemies had set him up

But his unwavering Commitment To God
is what got him THROWN in the Lion's Den

So - Let me ask you -
is it sounding like a GOOD THING - or a BAD THING

for you to end up in the LION'S DEN because of your
Unwavering Commitment to God?

We'll see WHY in just a Minute - -

But first - INTO the Lion's Den goes Daniel

& then - Daniel 6:17-20 (NLT)

17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel.

18 Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night fasting. He refused his usual entertainment and couldn't sleep at all that night. (again notice the relationship between Daniel & King)

19 Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions' den.

20 When he got there, he called out in anguish, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?"

**OKAY - I need you to really listen right at this point
Because Vs 22 is the KEY to this entire LESSON**

Vs 22 Is THE KEY To This Entire Lesson

Daniel 6:21–22 (NLT)

21 Daniel answered, “Long live the king!

22 My God sent his angel to shut the lions’ mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty.”

WHAT Got Daniel a Trip to the Lion’s Den??

His Unwavering Commitment to God !!

WHY was Daniel UNHARMED in the Lions’ Den??

***Because he was INNOCENT in God’s Sight
& he had NOT WRONGED the KING***

Listen to me please

**I have dealt with SO MUCH Spiritual PRIDE - -
BOTH in Myself and in others**

That I can assure you - that a Christian can JUSTIFY
absolutely ANY action - in the name of “Commitment to God”

**I have literally had DEATH THREATS
in the name of “Commitment to God”**

I have seen Christians do VERY UNGODLY things
in the name of “Commitment to God”

**DON’T BE Like THAT - Don’t be that Christian
Cause the only one you’re making happy - is the DEVIL**

If we are going to **prepare ourselves** for a **Trip** to the **Lions Den** -
we **must have BOTH** . . .

- 1) A Completely Unwavering Commitment to God**
 - 2) An INNOCENCE in God's Sight - Including having NOT WRONGED the Person who's throwing us in the Lion's Den**
-
-

We **MUST NOT Justify** our **Actions** by our **Spiritual Pride**
in the **Name** of "**Commitment to God**"

But **instead** we **MUST Operate** in a **Genuine Spirit-Filled Godly Life**
that **allows us** to **say** with **Daniel**

I have been found innocent in God's sight. And I have not wronged the people throwing me in this Lion's Den

Write these Vs's in your **Margin** right next to **Dan 6:22**
Write **1 PET 2:19-20**

1 Peter 2:19–20 (NLT)

19 For God is pleased with you when you do what you know is right and patiently endure unfair treatment.

20 Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

THAT is what the Lion's Den is ABOUT !!

It's **about** us **Doing what is RIGHT** -
& **being treated UNFAIRLY** because of it

WHAT HAPPENS when we **do this** ??

WHAT HAPPENED to **Daniel** when **HE** did this ??

Daniel MET GOD in a **WAY**
that he could NOT otherwise MEET HIM

Just like his **friends** met **JESUS** in **the FIRE** -
So **Daniel MET HIM** in the **LIONS DEN**

In fact - there are **some** who **believe** the **ANGEL**
mentioned in **Dan 6:22** is the **Pre-Incarnate Jesus Christ**

If you **find yourself** in the **Lion's Den** for **DOING what is RIGHT**
& **being INNOCENT** in **God's Sight**

You will **MEET GOD** there
like you CANNOT otherwise MEET HIM

AND you will **have a TESTIMONY** there
like you **CANNOT otherwise HAVE**

Don't be AFRAID of the **Lion's Den**

Just make sure - if you END UP there

- 1) it's **because** of your **UNWAVERING COMMITMENT** to God
- 2) you are **INNOCENT** in **God's sight**
- 3) you **HAVEN'T WRONGED ANYBODY** to get there

THEN - You will **MEET GOD** there
like you **CANNOT** otherwise **MEET HIM**

AND you will **have a TESTIMONY** there
like you **CANNOT otherwise HAVE**

You'll have a Testimony SIMILAR to Daniel's

Daniel 6:23–24 (NLT)

23 The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God. (there's that testimony, that can only come in the Lion's Den)

24 Then the king gave orders to arrest the men who had maliciously accused Daniel. He had them thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. The lions leaped on them and tore them apart before they even hit the floor of the den.
(well that didn't work out so good, did it?)

Then - in **V.25** is a **Decree** that is **So Right-On** - It is **PROPHETIC**,
in the sense that it is **Straight from God**

Daniel 6:25–28 (NLT)

25 Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: "Peace and prosperity to you!"

26 "I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end.

27 He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

THAT is the **One-of-a-Kind Testimony** - that **YOU & I can HAVE**
If WE will **face** our **Lion's Dens** the **SAME WAY** Daniel **Faced his**

So - What is your Lion's Den?

We all have them

Job Problems - People Problems

Home Problems - Church Problems . . . *We ALL have them*

SOMEWHERE in our Lives -

is an Opportunity - for us to Face our LION'S DEN

& can I tell you - What the ULTIMATE REASON IS

The ULTIMATE REASON

The ULTIMATE ANSWER to the QUESTION - *WHY? . . .*

IS For the Glory of God - to SHOW in our lives

Daniel isn't the HERO of this Story - GOD IS !!

The King Didn't issue a DECREE proclaiming the Glory of DANIEL

He issued a DECREE proclaiming the Glory of GOD

The REASON for your Lion's Den Testimony

is for the GLORY of GOD - to SHOW in Your Life

We don't know HOW - But if God asks us to go into the Lion's Den -

His purpose is to Display HIS GLORY - THRU our Lives

Let's be WILLING to MEET GOD there

& to HAVE that Testimony

& Let's Commit to Live in a way - that WILL bring God Glory

When we FACE - Our OWN Lion's DEN

Let's Pray