

Daniel 6:11-28
SA230129

“A Lion Among Lions”

1. Last week we saw Daniel as a “lion among men;” this week we will see him as a “lion among lions.”
 - **Last** week it was overcoming the fear of man; this week it is overcoming the fear of death.
 - **And** BOTH are needed if we are going to be completely free to serve the Lord without hindrance.
2. You know it’s one thing facing the fierceness of man.
 - **It’s** quite another the fierceness, power, and strength of a lion.
3. But take heart and courage in this.
 - **Because** those who rise above the fear of man in this world for Jesus’ sake will also find the strength to rise above the fear of the consequences of taking a stand in Jesus Name.
 - **And** this is what we will see Daniel learned here.

4. We left off last week with them tricking Darius into signing a law that forbade the worship of any except the King for 30 days.

- **And** of course, Daniel could not obey this law as it would put man over God; He simply continued in worship and prayer to the Lord.
- **But** as we will see, this got him into great trouble.

v.13 1. Notice again they call him “that Daniel.”

- **They** very clearly did not like Daniel as evidenced by their speech.

2. The Bible says, “from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks,” and now we see what was in their hearts.

- **Although** they were serving together governmentally, they saw Daniel as an enemy to their power and position politically. They wanted him gone.

3. Notice they lie.

- **Daniel** most certainly did show regard and respect for the King and his government.
- **As** we will see later, Daniel and the King greatly loved each other.

4. But as they spied and tried to trap Daniel in this new law they tricked the King into passing, they even knew how many times a day he prayed!

- **So** they were obviously watching him constantly.

v.14 1. The moment the King heard this, he was “greatly displeased” because he knew he had been tricked; he began to panic.

- **He** now realized the entire purpose of this plan was to trap Daniel.

2. They obviously had spied on Daniel the day before and then came in the next morning to tell on him.

- **And** since Darius loved and respected Daniel, the king now “sets his heart” on how to get Daniel out of this.

3. And notice he “labors” till the going down of the sun to get it done.

- **The** problem is the law couldn’t be changed once it was signed.

v.15 They now come back at the end of the day and demand the King carry out the sentence.

v.16 1. So the King reluctantly gave the command, and they took Daniel to the lion’s den to cast him in.

- **And** it would have been quite a drop.
2. Studies show that lions can jump about 12 feet straight up!
- **Which** means it had to be more than 12 feet deep so they couldn't jump out when the opening was uncovered!
 - **This is** quite the drop for a man in his upper 80s!
3. And notice the King displays what I will call "hopeful faith" as he was not yet a committed believer at this point (he refers to God as "Daniel's God").
- **But** he had seen God work in Daniel and through Daniel, so he knew He was real.
 - **He** had just not yet committed.
4. So what would these lions have been like at this moment?
- **It** was said that they worked on making these lions as fierce as possible.
5. In addition, they would purposefully feed them less to keep them hungry. When someone was thrown in, the lions would be even more fierce due to hunger.
- **So** this was the worst possible scenario.
 - **But** we will see God's power and faithfulness through it all.

v.17 1. A stone was place on top of the opening to the den and they would somehow rope it off with the King's signet ring in wax proving it had not been tampered with.

- **But** there is something else to note here.
2. At some point we will all come to times we feel we are facing the "lions" of life and feel trapped with no escape.

- **But** God always has a plan and a way of escape.

v.18 1. Typically the King had live music and food each night in the palace for himself and anyone there, but this night was different.

- **It** was a night of fasting and mourning for Daniel.

v.20 1. So the King stays up all night and rushes early to the den to see if by chance Daniel is still alive.

- **And** notice he cries out with a "lamenting voice" to Daniel to see if God has "been able" to preserve his life.
- **And** now he is going to see that our God is "more than able" to stop the lions and preserve Daniel's life.

v.21 1. Can you imagine how excited he was when he heard, “Oh King live forever!”

- **What** shock and joy must have filled his heart!

2. Not just because of the power of God but because Daniel his friend was still alive.

- **Especially** after it was HIS fault that they had tricked him into the decree.

3. Notice also how Daniel answered.

- **Not** with a panicked or fearful voice yelling, “Save me and get me out of here!”
- **But** a calm and confident voice even addressing the King with a proper greeting!

4. What a powerful testimony this would have been to Darius and the entire Kingdom.

- **Daniel** was not only preserved from the hungry and fierce lions all night, but he was calm and waiting to be lifted out the next morning!
- **And** from what we will see the King say in just a moment it would appear this led to his conversion.
- **Which** is often what a powerful testimony does.

5. Notice Daniel says God sent His angel to shut the lions mouths.

- **Which** means Daniel would have no fear of their teeth but only hear their growl.
- **And** even their growl at this point would be no more daunting than the growl of their stomach!

6. And the same thing is true when it comes to Satan in our lives.

- **If** we are walking with God as believers, we no longer fear his teeth but will only hear his growl because we are protected by God.
- **And** if we do not walk in fear his growl will not even affect us.

7. 1st Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

- **But** what we know is that he cannot devour us as God's followers unless we walk in rebellion.

v.23 1. Notice how excited the King is!

- **He** can't believe his ears that Daniel is alive but it bring inexpressible joy to his heart and he commands them to remove the stone and bring Daniel out!

2. And by now you are probably seeing some parallels in this scene.

- **Like** Daniel Jesus was falsely accused and turned over to the governing authorities to be put to death.
 - **He** was then put in a cave with a stone rolled over its mouth and then sealed with a Roman signet expecting him to be dead.
 - **And** in the morning on the 3rd day was found alive with an angel inside and the stone rolled away.
 - **Which** led to great joy by the disciples!
4. But noticed lastly why God was so faithful to Daniel.
- **It** says here because he “believed in His God.”
5. And the same will always be true for us as well.
- **God** will always be faithful to those who believe in Him regardless of our circumstances.

v.24 1. What a horrible and dramatic scene.

- **Instead** of Daniel those who accused Daniel as well as their wives and children were thrown into the lion’s den.

2. And notice it says they the lions caught them in midair and crushed their bones before they could even hit the bottom!

- **What** a horrible scene to imagine.

3. This would have been a large number of people thrown in with their families and the pile of bodies, carnage, and noise would have been terrifying.

- **As** we already noted these lions were kept very hungry and had to look at file of Daniel all night but weren't allowed to eat!

4. And while those who did this to Daniel deserved this it was not the Lord's will that their families were thrown in as well.

- **This** was simply the Medo/Persian tradition.

5. It would have been a better meal for the lions anyway as Daniel was all backbone and tough while these evil liars would have been "spineless tender!"

- **Although** my heart breaks for their wives and children.

v.27 1. This is the 2nd king Daniel was under after his captivity that due to Daniel's life and witness wrote a proclamation to the entire world of the greatness of Daniel's God.

- **How** many of us would just like to be able to be a witness to our family and friends much less the entire world!

2. And notice in verse 26 he says God has a kingdom that will not be destroyed like their kingdom in Daniel's dream.

- **And** he goes on to declare not only God's dominion but His power to deliver and save like He did for Daniel.

v.28 1. And notice it ends by telling us Daniel not only prospered under Darius but under Cyrus as well.

- **And** such will always be the case with those who trust and honor the Lord.

2. Do you find yourself surrounded by enemies that want to destroy you today or maybe you even feel like YOU in the lion's den?

- **Then** simply do what Daniel did.
- **Be** faithful to God, trust Him, honor Him, and obey Him, and you too will be delivered because God is always faithful.

Kids and babies under 10 years old in the sanctuary – (Nehemiah 8)

1. We have had some questions recently about our kids and babies in the sanctuary policy so I wanted to share our heart and reason for why we ask that the adults and kids worship in separate areas.
2. First of all, I want to say there is nothing wrong with having kids in the sanctuary, and also there is nothing wrong with **NOT** having kids in the sanctuary.
 - **It's** just how we choose to do it here, and I wanted you to understand why.
3. I also want you know that we do believe very strongly that families should worship together as much as possible.
 - **As** a matter of fact, the other 6 days of the week I would strongly encourage family time in worship and prayer together.
 - **We** did this with our girls growing up.
4. We simply ask that when we come together as a body that we divide up as adults and children so each can learn at their own level without distraction.
 - **And** here is why we feel it's important...
5. Unlike most churches we have long teaching times.

- **Most** churches teach anywhere from 15 to 30 minutes, whereas we go 40 to 45 on Sundays and as much as 55 on Wednesdays.
- **And** that is LONG time for a child to sit and pay attention.

6. We want to create an environment where adults can learn at their level and kids can learn at theirs as well.

- **That way the** kids are not bored in very long service, and mom and dad aren't distracted by handing out animal crackers or something to draw on the entire time.

7. We also sometimes cover adult issues like sexual topics that the Bible covers or graphic imagery like today with wild animals mauling people to death.

- **And** these topics can not only be hard for little ears but can also make for awkward conversation on the way home.

8. And if you are worried about what your kids are being taught just know we take them through the entire Bible at their level the same way we do for the adults - from Genesis to Revelation.

- **So** they are not missing out.

9. Some of you might say, "Well my kids are more mature than others and they can handle it."

- **That** may be true, but not ALL kids are as mature as yours.

- **And** if we let one family do it, we have to let ALL families do it or it's not fair.
10. I have also had a question as to whether there is any Biblical precedent for this, and I believe the answer is yes when it comes to longer Bible studies.
- **Again**, I am not saying it is “wrong” to have kids in the service, just that there is precedence to not including them when it comes to longer studies.
11. Turn with me to Nehemiah 8:1-3
- **Now** verses 7-9
12. So what about first time visitors who may not feel comfortable at first?
- **Allowed** in the first time to check it out while sitting toward the back so they can slip out if necessary.
- **And** we also have the services broadcast on the screen in the Café if the family feels more comfortable doing that.
13. What about nursing moms?
- **We** have a nursing mothers' room where you can hear and watch without distraction.

14. The parents can even go to the kids class and sit in if they want.
15. So I just wanted you to know there was a reason for why we do what we do, and it's not because we don't love your kids; it's because we do.
16. If you have any further questions I will be more than happy to speak to you about it.