

# “THE FAMINE & FEASTS OF A LION’S DEN”

DANIEL 6:12-28

Theme: Faithfulness to God’s Word gives courage to the one whose faith faces peril.

## I. The Faithful Are Susceptible to Grave Dangers – 6:12-17

### A. THE ANTAGONISM OF THE UNBELIEVER – vv. 12-15

1. As we saw in the previous text, the enemies of the truth attempted to eliminate the one who had represented the righteousness of God.
2. Here they pick up the account by bringing their complaint before King Darius – *“Then they approached and spoke before the king about the king’s injunction, ‘Did you not sign an injunction that any man who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, is to be cast into the lion’s den?’”*
3. They were attempting to sure up their case by having the King verify his order – all for the purpose of entrapping him with his commitment – *“The king answered and said, ‘The statement is true according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked.’”*
4. These antagonists to righteousness then level their accusation against Daniel: *“Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays not attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps making his petition three times a day.”*
  - a) Notice the subtle express of the reason for their antipathy toward Daniel – *“... one of the exiles from Judah ...”*
  - b) Here we see that their resentment stemmed from Daniel’s religious affections and his monotheistic commitments to the true God, Yahweh.
5. Immediately, the king realizes that he had been set up and *“set his mind on delivering Daniel; and even until sunset he kept exerting himself to rescue him.”*
6. However, the enemies of the truth will always be attempting to thwart the welfare of the upright – they *“came by agreement to the king and said to the king, ‘Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed.’”*
7. Once again, we see that those devoted to God will find that those

outside the kingdom of Christ will hate the righteous and attempt to destroy the godly – cp. ***Matthew 10:16-28***.

**B. THE ANXIETIES OF THE BELIEVER – vv. 16-17**

1. Notice that Daniel was not simply kept from harm – he had to face tremendous peril that tested the degree of his abilities to trust God – *“then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lion’s den.”*
2. We ought not to think that men like Daniel who faced such peril did so with nonchalance – it was as difficult for them as for us.
3. *“The king spoke and said to Daniel, ‘Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you.’* – a statement that demonstrated the force of Daniel’s testimony – not of Darius’ faith.
4. The imperfect state of the verb deliver can cause this to be translated as a wish.
5. Then *“a stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing might be changed in regard to Daniel.”*

**II. The Faithful Are Secure through God’s Deliverance – 6:18-23**

**A. THE DISTRESS OF THE UNBELIEVER – vv. 18-20**

1. However, notice the anxiety on the part of the unbelieving king – not being privy to the grace given to those possessing faith in God, his anxiety was far worse than Daniel’s – *“Then the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him.”*
2. Darius’ distress is demonstrated as he *“arose at dawn, at the break of day, and went in hast to the lion’s den. When he had come near to the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice ... ‘Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God ... been able to deliver you from the lions?’”*
3. The emphasis in this section on how Daniel had *“constantly served”* his God would obligate God to repay him for that service.
4. Most unsaved people possess such a *quid pro quo* approach to God.
5. Darius thought was that God ought to have delivered him, but was He able?

**B. THE DIVIDEND FOR FAITHFULNESS – vv. 21-23**

1. Daniel, on the other hand, had had a great night!

2. He had been at peace as he observed the way that God chose to bring Himself glory – *“My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths and they have not harmed me.”* – cp. **Daniel 3:25**.
3. Daniel then expresses his commitment to righteousness as was verified by his deliverance – *“... inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime.”*
4. Scriptures clearly teach that we can be kept in peace when our minds are clear before God – cp. **Isaiah 26:3; Psalm 27:1**.
5. The reason is then given why God had delivered him without so much as a scratch: *“So Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.”*

### III. **The Faithful Are Sustained through Glorious Declarations – 6:24-28**

#### A. ***THE DECLARATION TO EXACT JUSTICE – v. 24***

1. The fate of those who had plotted against Daniel is included here to demonstrate that God Himself has the last word concerning the wicked.
2. These nobles who had plotted against Daniel were mercilessly cast into the lions’ den at the decree of Darius – *“and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.”*
3. This demonstrated the reason Daniel’s deliverance was not an inept group of lions, but the result of faith in God – cp. **Hebrews 11:33!**

#### B. ***THE DECLARATION TO EXALT JEHOVAH – vv. 25-28***

1. The joy of Daniel’s heart was that whether by life or death, the Lord God receive glory – and the consequence of his faithful obedience to the Word was a declaration lifting up God’s glory.
2. It is not necessary to conclude that Darius was converted because of this declaration – he never indicates any abandonment of his other devotions.
3. He merely acknowledges the power of Daniel’s God and issues this decree for three reasons:
  - a) **God’s Stability:** God lives, and He continues as God eternally – *“For He is the living God and enduring forever ...”*
  - b) **God’s Supremacy:** God’s kingdom is eternal: *“And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, and His dominion will be forever.”*

- c) **God's Salvation:** God is willing to rescue and deliver: *"He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, who has also delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."*

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