



K-Ist Lesson

Introduction

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline between #28 and #29. We've seen how Daniel served King Nebuchadnezzar. Today, we are going to see how Daniel served two other kings in Babylon. We'll talk about two scary events that happened. One happened to a man called King Belshazzar and the other happened to Daniel. But we'll see how God showed both times that he is still sovereign.

- ? What does sovereign mean? *God is in complete control of everything.*

First, I'll give you a hint about the scary thing that happened to Daniel. See if you can guess the animal I'm thinking of . . . Give the students several clues from most general to specific until they guess "lion" (e.g., it can grow to be bigger than your dad.; it has sharp claws; it has sharp teeth; it is part of the cat kind; it doesn't meow, it roars; the male has a mane of fur around its face).

You guessed it. We'll learn how Daniel came face to face with a whole bunch of lions!

Refer to Lesson 108 Flip Chart. Some scary things happened in our last lesson, too. We learned how God showed his power by protecting Daniel's three friends—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

- ? Why were these three men thrown into a fiery furnace? *They would not bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue.*

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced a scary punishment when they were thrown into the fiery furnace. But God showed his great power and protected them from the fire.

Nebuchadnezzar saw God's power when these men were saved. But he was still prideful and did not honor God the way he should. So God sent him a scary dream about a tall tree that was chopped down.

Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that his dream meant he had sinful pride and he would live like an animal in the fields until he understood that God is in control over everything and everyone.

God Sends a Message

Even though the next king of Babylon knew what had happened to Nebuchadnezzar, he was also very proud and thought he was very great. Let's find out what God did to show his power to this king, named Belshazzar.

One day, King Belshazzar hosted a great feast. Over a thousand people were there eating and drinking wine together. Then the king commanded his servants, "Bring me the special golden cups that were taken from the temple in Jerusalem so we may drink our wine from them."

Now, these cups were made special for worshipping God. But the Babylonians had stolen them. Now as the king and his guests drank from these special cups, they began to praise and worship false gods.

Daniel 5:5-6

This did not please God at all. So, he did something that frightened the proud king. Let's read about it in Daniel 5:5. Have the student bring up the Bible and turn to the sticky note. Read verse 5.

- ? Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What suddenly appeared in the room? *The fingers of a human hand.*
- ? What did the hand do? *Wrote on the wall of the king's palace.*
- ? Would it scare you if you saw such a thing? *Allow answers.*

Let's see if this strange handwriting scared the king. Read verse 6.

The king's face turned pale and white, his legs got weak, and his knees knocked together. That sounds like he must have been scared.

Belshazzar wanted to know what the writing said. But none of his wise men knew what the words on the wall meant. Soon the queen came in. She remembered how Daniel had told King Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of his dreams. So, she told Belshazzar he should call for Daniel.

When Daniel came, he reminded Belshazzar of how God had punished Nebuchadnezzar for his pride, making him eat grass like an animal.

Belshazzar also had great pride—just like Nebuchadnezzar. And because of this sin, God sent the hand to write a message. Daniel explained what the message meant: God had judged Belshazzar; he had failed to live as he should have and would be punished. Belshazzar's kingdom would end very soon. It would be split up and taken over by the enemy.

Later that same night, Belshazzar was killed, and a new king took over. Once again, God showed that he is sovereign (in control) over everything—even the kings of earth.

God Protects Daniel

God allowed Daniel to keep serving as an important leader for the new king, Darius. Soon, Daniel became a favorite of the king. Some of the other leaders became jealous of Daniel and decided to get rid of him.

The jealous leaders set up a trap. They tricked King Darius into making a new law. "O king," they said, "you should make a new law that says everyone must pray ONLY to you and to no other god. If they do, they'll be thrown into the lions' den!"

"All right," King Darius replied, "I'll sign it."

Oh no! Whoever broke this new law would be thrown into a den of hungry lions! That sounds scary. Lions are big and ferocious and have huge claws and sharp teeth!

Daniel knew about this law King Darius had signed. He knew that if he prayed to God, he would be disobeying the king's law. But if Daniel prayed to the king, he would be disobeying God's law.

- ? Which do you think Daniel chose to do: pray to the king or pray to God? *Allow discussion.*

Daniel chose to obey God and bowed down by his window to pray. This time, the jealous leaders spied on him. They wanted Daniel to get in trouble, so they ran to tell King Darius that Daniel was breaking the new law.

When the king figured out that these men had trapped Daniel, he was very upset. Darius liked Daniel and tried to find a way to keep him from being punished. But the jealous leaders reminded him, "O king, remember that you signed your name on the law, and it cannot be changed." Poor Darius. He didn't want to

punish Daniel, but it was too late. He had to do what his law said.

Refer to the Flip Chart. So, Daniel was thrown into a den full of hungry lions! A large stone was placed at the door of the den, and the king sealed it. Poor Daniel. He was all alone in the lions' den—or was he?

- ? What do you think will happen to Daniel? Will he be eaten by the hungry lions? Or will God rescue him? *Allow guesses.*

Normally, the ferocious lions would eat anyone thrown into their den, so King Darius was worried about Daniel. He didn't want him to die. Darius was so upset that he couldn't eat or sleep all night. But the king still hoped that God would save Daniel somehow.

Daniel 6:20-22

Let's see what happened next. Listen as I read Daniel 6:20. Read the verse.

- ? First thing in the morning, the king got up and ran to the lions' den to check on Daniel. What did he ask Daniel? Has your God been able to do what? *To deliver him from the lions.*
- ? What do you think? Could God keep Daniel safe from a bunch of hungry lions with sharp claws and teeth? *Allow discussion.*
- Listen to these verses to find out. Read verses 21-22.
- ? How did God protect Daniel? Whom did he send? *God sent his angel.*
- ? What did God do to the lions? *Shut the lions' mouths.*

So, Daniel wasn't alone in the lions' den. God sent an angel to protect him and shut the lions' mouths. When Daniel came out of the den, there wasn't even a scratch on him because he had trusted God.

When King Darius saw that Daniel had been saved, he believed that Daniel's God was the true God, and he made a law that all people in his kingdom must honor the Lord.

Again, God showed his power and proved that he is in control even over those who think they are great like King Belshazzar. And God showed King Darius that Daniel was right to pray to the true God and trust in him. Only the one true God has the power to shut the mouths of lions!



God punished the king for his pride.

Daniel faithfully
OBEYED God.