

• 1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; 2 and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. 3 Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

• Leaders are looking for people of Character and consistency. You can't hide **FAVOR**

Can I Trust It's you? **The Spirit, always, makes the difference.**

• 4 Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. 5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

Can I Trust Sam?

• The real miracle was when his enemies were looking for a way to accuse him, but they couldn't find anything in his life.

• 6 Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! 7 All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. 8 Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." 9 Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.

🗣️ A good leader makes a bad decision with wrong information.

🗣️ A good leader makes a bad decision when he gets rid of people who can tell him no.

• A good leader makes a bad decision when he doesn't consult the Holy Spirit.

• In every organization there are politicians and prophets.

- *Politicians do what is politically correct.*
- *Prophets do what is Biblically correct.*

- *Politicians consult people then explain it to God.*
- *Prophets consult God and share it with the people.*

- Do you have a **policy** or a **verse**?
- Policy changes. Scripture doesn't.

• *10 When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.*

- If everyone else is going to be proud of their lifestyle don't be ashamed of yours.
- Your faith should be public and not just private.

• It wasn't Daniel's private faith that got him in trouble.

• Your **character** is only as strong as your **prayer life**.

• Prayer is how you march into battle and march through a battle.

• The only remedy for **panic** is **prayer**.

• When there's **nothing you can do**, there's always **one thing you can do – pray**.

• Prayer's less about **changing your future & more about preparing you for your future**.

• *Would your current prayer life get you in trouble if you were Daniel?*

- *11 Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.*
- *12 Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, "O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king*

answered and said, ***“The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.”***

- ***No one can fix my fate if I have fixed my faith.***

- ***13 Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.” 14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. 15 Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.” 16 Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” 17 And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that***

nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. 18 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

- ***Daniel was in his eighties when he was thrown into the lions’ den.***



- ***Faith isn’t just what I say, it’s how I live.***

- **Most people will never have the opportunity to prove God’s faithfulness in the lions’ den because they have not proved their faith in everyday life.**
 - *They’re not going to see God come through for them in a huge way financially because they haven’t learned to trust Him with 10% of what they have.*
 - *They’re not going to see increased favor at work because they segregate God from their work.*



- ***Don’t try to be like Daniel in the lions’ den.***

- ***Be like Daniel BEFORE the Lions Den!***

- *Be like Daniel who prayed every day and had integrity.*

- Be like Daniel and serve God continually in every aspect of your life.
- And then God will do His thing in the lions' den.
- **If you can't honor God in the day, you'll never have faith in your night.**
- He wouldn't change what he believed because he served a God that would not change.
- *19 Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. 20 As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" 21 Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm." 23 Then the king*

was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. 24 And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

- You only get delivered if you know God!
- **Men make decisions that punish their wives and children. Don't make your children have to fight off your lions.**
- *25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. 26 I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to*

tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. ^{SAV IT!} 27 He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."

Sometimes God puts me in an unchangeable situation so that He can do something undeniable.

- **Courage is infectious.** *Encourage- Pour courage into*

- **WHEN YOU DO WHAT ONLY YOU CAN DO, GOD WILL DO WHAT ONLY GOD CAN DO.**

- Stand Out, Stand Up, and Stand Firm

- **When you're before lions the only thing that will matter is what you did before the lions.**

- Parallels of the den and the tomb.

- *Both Daniel and Jesus live an exemplary life, such that no charge can be brought against them: they are innocent before people and God. Both are brought*

before a ruler, facing trumped up charges, and the ruler's hand is forced in bringing judgement on them. Both are put in some kind of cave or pit which is sealed with a stone. A very early morning visit

- *Both come out alive and angels are involved. Both are vindicated and exalted.*

The difference, of course, is that Jesus died and was then raised. And while Daniel faced death because of human sinfulness and pride, Jesus experienced death for human sinfulness and pride.

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- WHEN GOD LIFTS YOU UP, PEOPLE WILL TRY TO PULL YOU DOWN.

- ***Faith is more than an act, it's a habit.***

- When your top priority is God's approval, you are confident.
- A FAITH THAT'S TESTED IS A FAITH THAT CAN BE TRUSTED.
- FAITH OBEYS GOD INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING MAN.
- FAITH BELIEVES IN SPITE OF WHAT IT SEES.
- FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY. THE OUTCOME IS GOD'S.