

Daniel and the Lions' Den

I. Introduction

- A. Scripture shows us that we can be strengthened by the faith, integrity, reverence, and devotion of Old Testament characters who made good choices. One such example is Daniel, whose faith was shown throughout his life, and particularly in the instance that led to him being thrown into a den of lions. **Hebrews 11:32-33**

II. Daniel's Faith Envied

- A. After the Medes and Persians took Babylon, Daniel was placed in an esteemed position and was highly regarded by King Darius. **Daniel 6:1-3**
- B. Daniel's esteemed position caused him to be envied by other leaders appointed throughout the kingdom. Daniel's faithfulness and integrity was such that the presidents and governors realized the only way they could "bring him down" was to use Daniel's commitment to obeying God against him. **Daniel 6:4-5**
- C. Out of envy and hatred, Daniel's enemies requested Darius to sign a decree stating that anyone who asked a petition of someone other than the king during a thirty-day period would be thrown into a den of lions. **Daniel 6:6-8**

III. Daniel's Faith Tested

- A. Daniel's persecutors persuaded the king to sign the decree, and Daniel *knew* that the writing was signed. **Daniel 6:9-10a**
- B. This put Daniel's faith to the test. It's evident that Daniel was submissive to governing authorities (cf. **Dan. 6:21-22**), as we must be (**Rom. 13:1ff; 1 Pet. 2:13ff**), but he knew that heeding this *specific* law would violate God's law. Thus, Daniel was faced with the choice of disobeying God or being thrown into a den of lions. He chose wisely. **Acts 5:29; Daniel 6:10b**

IV. Daniel's Faith Rewarded

- A. Daniel didn't hide his steadfast reverence for God, and thus was thrown into the den of lions. **Daniel 6:16-17**
- B. Yet, he wasn't harmed at all "because he had trusted in his God." **Daniel 6:20-23**
- C. While God doesn't promise that trusting and obeying Him will cause us to be delivered out of all temporal trials, He does promise that things will ultimately work out OK for those who faithfully serve Him. On the other hand, whatever temporal strength is permitted to those who disregard God, things will *not* work out OK eternally for those who choose this path. Our assurance of both sides of this coin is strengthened by the account of Daniel in the lions' den. **Romans 8:28; Daniel 6:24**

V. Conclusion

- A. Daniel exemplifies how challenging walking by faith can be, but his experience also shows the power of God, which assures that whatever fiery trials we must endure to serve Him are more than worth it. **Hebrews 11:32-33**