

“Darius & the Lion’s Den”

“The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.” (Proverbs 4:19)

Where Do I Sign?

Daniel 6:6-9 – (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.”

Duped Darius

Daniel 6:12-15 – (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.’ (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.’”

Trial by Night

Daniel 6:16-23 – (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. (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.”

Transformation of a Troubled Person

Daniel 6:24-27 – (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. (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. (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.”

Thoughts:

(1) Your Trial is not always just about you

Philippians 2:17-18 – (17) “Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. (18) Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.”

(2) Compassion, not condemnation

Matthew 9:36 – “When (*Jesus*) saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

Proverbs 4:19 – “The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.”

(3) Reexamine the assumption of the wicked at rest

Psalms 73:12 – “Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.”

Isaiah 48:22 – “‘There is no peace,’ says the LORD, ‘for the wicked.’”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

(This message is available for review and sharing at alivein.me)