

## When The Lion's Den Cannot Be Avoided - II

### Introduction and Review

- Last week we saw Daniel as a teenager in captivity brought to Babylon by the will of God who controls all the events of history (Dan. 1:2; Ac. 2:23 - “*predetermined plan & foreknowledge...*”).
- The Lord used the enemy to discipline & take care of His people.
- The Lord also gave Daniel conviction to establish limitations for his involvement & relationships in the workplace (Dan. 1:8).
- The Lord rewarded Daniel's faithfulness in this hostile environment. We learned that God's will, done God's way will yield godly results that no one can deny!

### I. Daniel Before The Lion's Den

- A. The Lord exalted Daniel in the workplace (v. 1-3)  
*The king needed men in official positions who were honest & loyal (v. 2). The Lord distinguished Daniel through his godly character & skill in doing his job (80+ yrs. old). God had put these special abilities **in** him, but did not do the work **for** him. Daniel had to be diligent....(Pr. 18:16; 1Tim. 4:14).*
- B. The enemy plotted against Daniel in the workplace (v. 4-12)  
*Envy & hatred motivated co-workers to plot physical harm against Daniel. They found no fault with his work, so they plotted against him in his private religious life (v. 4-5). This was a well-organized scheme – “came by agreement” (v. 6, 11, 15; Pr. 4:16 – “For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong...”). Their plot used the king's pride to test Daniel's faith & loyalty to God (v. 6-12). Daniel knew about the plot, but also knew that his help comes from the Lord – prayer & thanksgiving (v. 10). The unbelieving world may tolerate us & our faith, but Jesus said there is hatred in their hearts (Jn. 15:18-19).*

### II. Daniel In The Lion's Den

- A. King Darius is deceived (v. 13-18)  
*Deceitful, scheming & wicked people will use anyone to carry out their evil plans (parents, disciples, soldiers, gov. officials, etc.). Not even the king of Persia could rescue*

*Daniel (v. 14). People in high positions of authority are often trapped by their own rules & laws – making them weak & ineffective. Laws can bring injustice to innocent people – even believers. The schemers **sealed the entrance with a stone & the king's signet** to make sure he couldn't escape (v. 17)!*

- B. Daniel is protected (v. 19-22)

*The schemers assumed that Daniel's God **could not** save him. The king assumed that Daniel's God **could** save him & the king was right! God sent his angel, miraculously subdued the lions & saved Daniel.*

### III. Daniel Out Of The Lion's Den

- A. Daniel is delivered (v. 23)

*Daniel was delivered “because he trusted in his God”. Like Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego there was “no kind of harm found on him”. Daniel is still useful to God at 80+ years old.*

- B. The enemy is destroyed (v. 24)

*God turned the wicked scheme back on the enemy. Sinful plans negatively affect more people than those directly involved – wives & children. The lion's den is not a safe place when God is not with you (Ps. 23:4).*

- C. God is exalted (v. 25-28)

*King Darius knows personally that God Almighty rules over all the events of history. He is the only True & Living God who can rescue His people for any & every situation.*

**APPL:** These events in Daniel's life prepare us for what would happen to Jesus 500 years later. He lived the only perfect & holy life; they could find no fault in Him. So those in authority plotted & schemed with traitors like Judas & lying witnesses to destroy Him. And they felt so confident when they saw Him arrested, brutally beaten, mocked & crucified; they felt confident that they had defeated Him when He willingly died, was laid in a tomb, placed a stone at the entrance, sealed it with Pilate's signet & guarded it with soldiers just like Daniel. But the Pharisees, Sadducees, lawyers & mockers forgot that God cannot be defeated...

## CONCLUSION

Daniel's testimony of love for God, faith in the Lord and faithfulness in what the Lord assigned his hands to do serve as an example for you and me today. But Daniel lived more than 2500 years ago and God needs someone to live faithfully for Christ today. Let you light shine others, so that they may see... (Mt. 5:16); someone to live faithful whether you are 13 or 83 years old, whether you in a lowly position of service or many people report to you, whether you live in an apartment, your own home, a retirement home or government housing. My brother or sister, are you willing to be a faithful witness for Christ even if you have to stand alone; even if you know that people will plot & scheme to destroy you; even if you know that you might have a modern-day lion's den where people think they've got you down & you can't get up? Are you willing to go that far for Jesus & trust Him to deliver you? I hope your answer is YES Lord; I'll go where you want me to go & do what you want me to do!

If you are not a Christian, the lion's the greatest danger for you. Lions & any other dangers in life only kill the body, but there's a den of eternal punishment after death where the unbelievers exist in misery forever. Only Jesus can save you from this misery. You must put your trust in Jesus Christ as Savior. You must believe that He alone can save you from the penalty of your sins...

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