

The Answerer

Answering children's questions

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Daniel in the Lions Den

Daniel Chapter 6:1-28.

“Dare to be a Daniel” song lyrics are listed at the end of “The Writing on the Wall” story.

In this story Daniel’s fellow officials in the court of King Darius attempted (tried) to get Daniel killed for disobeying the king ... and killed by lions too!

Well their planned ‘Dirty work’ - backfired badly! Read on!

Daniel was a Hebrew (Jewish) slave and since he was captured as a teenager and taken from his home in Jerusalem, he had been educated (taught) the laws and ways of King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon, now called Iraq. Daniel served him as a court official. Daniel also served his son King Belshazzar and then King Darius who deposed Belshazzar. (See that story in “The Writing on the Wall” story.) Daniel and three his friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were all officials in Nebuchadnezzar’s court. They were the brightest (smartest) of the slaves from Jerusalem.

Because of Daniel’s integrity and diligence, Darius liked him very much and trusted him too.

The other officials could find nothing that Daniel had done wrong - so they made something up to make him look bad. They planned how to get rid of this guy whom they all hated - but it did not work.

The ‘Medes and the Persians’ (Babylonians) had a rule in their law, agreed to by the king, that once a law is signed by the king - it cannot be changed. So they used it to trap Daniel and the king, to get rid of Daniel.

They took their plan to Darius - that a law should be made so that anyone praying to any other god than Darius for the next 30 days should be thrown into the lion’s den. The king agreed and signed the law.

The king did not realise that Daniel prayed to his God every day - but the jealous officials did! Daniel knew about the law too - but continued to pray to God on a daily basis.



Oh dear, Daniel must soon go into the lion's den.

And he did, although the king tried to prevent it ...
the officials reminded him:

'You signed the law remember.'

So it was into the lion's den for Daniel for 'Praying to
a god other than Darius.'

Daniel spent the whole night among the lions!

King Darius ate no food and spent a sleepless night because now he *knew that the other court officials wanted to get rid of Daniel* - but Darius did not want Daniel to die. He was very upset!

Very early in the morning the king rushed down to the lion's den to see if Daniel still lived - and if Daniel's God could save him from the lion's jaws. And God had!
Daniel's God had saved him from the lions and death!!!

Darius was overjoyed to find Daniel alive!

However, serious trouble awaited his accusers. Yes indeed! All Daniel's accusers ... and their families, (that too was 'the law' of the Medes and Persians) were thrown into the lion's den and the lions were now very much active and hungry. *Goodbye deceivers!*

Later Darius sent out a proclamation to his whole kingdom praising the true God of Daniel. It was quite an impressive letter of praise to Daniel's God. Read it.

