

## Adult Bible Study

Nov 29, 2020

### Opening Prayer

Who in your family or study group would make the best lion tamer?

**Background:** Daniel's success as the Persian King Darius' administrator has aroused much jealousy among the satraps (Lower level administrators) working under him. They have plotted against him, but could find nothing with which to charge him.

### Daniel 6:6-27

**6** So the presidents and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! **7** All the presidents 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 interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. **8** Now, O king, establish the interdict 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 interdict. **10** Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. **11** The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. **12** Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, "O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?" The king answered, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." **13** Then they responded to the king, "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day." **14** When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. **15** Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed." **16** Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den

of lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!" **17** 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, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. **18** Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him. **19** Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. **20** When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?" **21** Daniel then said to the king, "O king, live forever! **22** My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong." **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** The king gave a command, and those who had accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. 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 peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: "May you have abundant prosperity! **26** I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people should 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 has no end. **27** He delivers and rescues, he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for he has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."

## Questions

1. What trap has been set for Daniel?
2. Why has Daniel's private life become an issue for public policy?
3. Why is the king so distressed in verses 14-18?
4. What do you think really happened to Daniel in the lions den? What about the lions? The satraps and their families?
5. What role do the law of God and Daniel's faith play.

**Reflection**

1. What stirs up your jealousy?
2. Daniel shows us that the law of God supersedes the law of the land. How does that square with church and state issues?
3. When in your life have you found God in a “lion’s den” of skeptics and critics?
4. How has God been your lifeline?

Closing Prayer