

Sunday, July 30, 2023: The Lion's Den

What have we learned about God so far from Daniel?

- Chapter 1: our Sovereign God gives favor to His children as they live by faith.
- Chapter 2: our Sovereign God gives wisdom when we ask Him for it.
- Chapter 3: our Sovereign God protects His children who live by faith.
- Chapter 4: our Sovereign God changes even the proudest heart by His grace.
- Chapter 5: our Sovereign God is absolutely in control of kings and kingdoms.

Today: our Sovereign God can be trusted because He does everything for His glory.

Approach: let's look at those who are participating in the narrative.

Darius: needed help (v1) as new leader;

- easily duped (v6-10) **pride**, but took responsibility, which gave him a ringside seat to see the power of God;
- took seriously the "Laws of the Medes and Persians" even in his response to the miracle (judgement);
- observant of Daniel's God.

Other leaders (Administrators/Governors): unhappy with leadership role;

- probably selfish and certainly jealous;
- devious plan (or so they thought);
- blinded by their hatred and misunderstood the risk.
- Daniel's success would make them look better;

Daniel: 85 years old;

- second world power/multiple leaders;
- didn't let circumstances dictate his habits;
- his character and walk with the Lord was well known (v4-5);
- man of prayer (3x a day...at least) scheduled
- giving thanks and asking God for help (v10-11);
- a man of faith (Heb. 11:32-33 "*by faith...shut the mouths of lions*").

Observers/Gentiles: Darius was blown away by this miracle, so it must have impacted others as well.

- they are witnesses to a God demonstration (Exodus, Jericho, fiery furnace; Calvary (Romans). Acts 17:26-27 *"From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us."*

God: from the mind and mouth of Darius (26-27) *"I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel."*

- *"For he is the living God* God lives
- *and he endures forever;* God is eternal
- *his kingdom will not be destroyed,* His kingdom is indestructible
- *his dominion will never end.* God is absolute sovereign
- *He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth.* He has the ability to support his authority
- *He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."* Proof you can see!

Us:

- Are you allowing God to continue to work on your faith? Age shouldn't stand in the way! How are you dealing with the challenges you face?
- Are you allowing God to continue the work that he's begun on you character? 1 Thess. 5:23-24
- Are you a vessel that God is using for his purpose? (V28...set up return to Israel?)
- Are you serious about your scripture reading and praying, like developing habits?