

Weekly Lesson Theme: Staying True In A World Far From God

Lesson Scriptures: Daniel 6:6-13, 16-17, 21-23

Key Lesson Theme: "Live Courageously"

Today's Lesson: Thursday, September 21

Podcast Version: [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#), or [Spotify](#)

Daniel 6:16-17, 21-23

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you continually serve, rescue you!"

¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing in regard to Daniel could be changed.

²¹ Then Daniel spoke with the king: "May the king live forever. ²² My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths; and they haven't harmed me, for I was found innocent before him. And also before you, Your Majesty, I have not done harm."

²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to take Daniel out of the den. When Daniel was brought up from the den, he was found to be unharmed, for he trusted in his God.

Commentary

Note the irony of the situation. What the king preferred to do; he couldn't do. What he didn't want to do, he had the authority to

carry out. The king gave the order for the sentence to be carried out. They brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den.

All human efforts at sparing Daniel from this barbaric execution failed. If rescue was to come, it must come from God's divine intervention. Strangely, the king may have considered that as a possibility. Whether he declared it publicly in passing down the sentence or as a personal comment to Daniel, the king said, May your God, whom you continually serve, rescue you, denoting an expression of hope.

We may forget that Daniel was no longer a teen. He was a much older man—some speculate he could have been near eighty. Thus, the executioners dropped an old man into the pit. A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. They likely watched as the king sealed it with his own signet ring, and his nobles also applied the royal seal. No one could tamper with the opening under risk of the punishment. The king retreated to his palace for a sleepless night without food or anything else to divert his attention from what had occurred that day. Whether his fast was religiously motivated or simply the result of personal agony is not clear.

God always does what is right and brings glory to His Name. Sometimes He accomplishes His purpose by delivering His people from difficult or dangerous circumstances. Sometimes God helps His people get through such circumstances. Yet at other times God helps His people get past or recover from difficult circumstances. We cannot always understand why God responds the way He does. Hence, we must believe and trust in Him despite what we understand. After all, little if any trust is required when we know all the answers.

The king issued another couple of decrees; one of which was completely opposite of the edict he had issued earlier. First, he pronounced retribution on Daniel's accusers. Then he urged all

the peoples of the land to stand in fear before the God of Daniel.

This does not mean that Darius came to a full faith in the Lord God, but he did elevate the God of Israel to an honored position as the living God who is eternal, enduring, all-powerful, and able to perform signs and wonders that brings about the deliverance of His people.

What are some lasting truths that come from Daniel 6:16-17, 21-23?

- The Lord is our hope and deliverer in time of need.
- The way we respond to difficulties becomes an opportunity to testify to the faithfulness of God.
- God is able to rescue us.
- When God reveals Himself and proves Himself sufficient in any of life's most difficult circumstances, we are to respond with thanksgiving and praise to Him and declare His worthiness to all those around us.

Until tomorrow Saints...
Every day is Sunday