

Name _____

Daniel

Once upon a time there was a man named King Darius. He was the ruler of his country. King Darius decided to have helpers to rule the country. He divided up the country so that there were 120 princes with three presidents over them. And the most important president was named Daniel. Daniel was different than the other rulers because he was Jewish and would pray to God three times a day.

Everything Daniel did was good. That made the other presidents and princes mad. They tried to catch Daniel doing something wrong, but they couldn't find Daniel doing any wrong. Then the men decided that they would have to find fault with Daniel's worship of God.

The other presidents and princes went to King Darius. They told him they wanted to establish a law for the next thirty days that no one could ask a favor from any god or any man except they could ask it of King Darius. If someone disobeyed the law, they would be thrown in a den of lions with no protection.

King Darius thought this sounded like a good law, so he signed it. The presidents and the princes went to Daniel's house, and they caught him praying to God which broke the new law. They went to King Darius, and told him that Daniel was not obeying the law, but was worshipping God three times a day.

King Darius was very sad. He could see he had made a mistake. Daniel was his favorite president. But now, he had to follow up with the consequences of Daniel breaking the new law. Daniel was brought before King Darius and thrown into the den of lions. King Darius said, "Your God whom you serve continually, He will save you." And Daniel was left with the lions all night.

Very early the next morning, King Darius got up and hurried to the den of lions. When he arrived at the den, he yelled with a tormented voice, "Daniel! Did your God save you from the hungry lions?"

Daniel said to King Darius, "O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, and they haven't hurt me. I was innocent before God and you, O King."

King Darius was very glad for Daniel, and commanded that Daniel should be taken up out of the den of lions. So Daniel was taken out of the den of lions, and there was no hurt on his body from the lions because Daniel believed in God.

Contributed by Lynn Smith
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