



## STORY

Daniel in the Lions' Den - (Daniel 6)

## TEACHER PRAYER

Lord, grant me grace to confess You wherever, however, and whenever you call for my confession.

## VOCABULARY

*Satrap* - a prince, with little or no authority, who is serving an absolute ruler

## OUTER AIM

To realize that one's whole life is either a denial or a confession of our God.

## INNER AIM

To remember always that your values are your confession.

## BACKGROUND

Daniel's term of service - Deported in 605 BC, some nineteen years before the third deportation in 586 BC. He served through the passing of the kingdom from the Babylonian to the Medo/Persian kingdom. Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus, 1:21. The point is that Daniel was a very old man when the events of this chapter took place.

Daniel's Service: Darius established 120 satraps over this kingdom, then three governors over the satraps. Daniel was one of the three governors. Because of his distinguished service Darius contemplated putting him over the entire kingdom, 6:1-3.

Plot of the Satraps and Governors: Jealousy motivated the satraps and governors, as in chapter 3:8ff--the accusers of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The satraps and governors failed in their effort to find any malfeasance in Daniel's administration of his governmental responsibilities. He was an honest civil servant. The satraps and governors had observed one factor in Daniel's life--his daily worship of his God. Three times a day Daniel knelt in prayer, facing Jerusalem. His worship was to be his undoing! His political opponents prevailed upon the king to pass a statute forbidding anyone from petitioning God or man for thirty days, except the king. Disobedience punishable by death in the lions' den. Flattered and unthinking, Darius passed the irrevocable law, 6:4-9.

Obeying God comes before Obeying Man: The political enemies of Daniel had their flunkies in Daniel's household, who reported that Daniel continued his practice of praying in his upper room with the window open facing Jerusalem. Daniel made no effort to hide his prayer life. Without any heroics Daniel disobeyed the imperial statute because it ordered him to do what his God had forbidden him to do, 6:10.

Condemned, but delivered: Daniel's political opponents brought charges against him which Darius had to honor because Daniel had transgressed an irrevocable law of the empire. Darius made every effort to secure the release of Daniel, but he was trapped by the foolish statute that he had signed into law. Daniel was lowered into the lions' den to spend a secure night while Darius spent a sleepless night fasting. Early the next morning Darius went to the den and called. Daniel who responded, reporting that his God had sent His angel to deliver him. Daniel was delivered, his opponents thrown to their deaths in the lions' den, 6:11-23.

Darius honored the God of Daniel, 6:25-27, even as Nebuchadnezzar had, 3:28-29.

## **STUDENT PRAYER**

Lord, teach me to confess You not only with my lips, but with my whole life!

## **PRESENTATION**

- . We ought to obey God rather than men, Acts 5:29.
- . There is no time that is not the right time to confess your faith.
- . There is no peril from which our God can't save us.

## **APPLICATION**

What are your plans for the future?

What part does the Lord play in your plans?

## **PASSAGES**

**These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.**

Matt. 10:32-33 - Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Rev. 2:10 - Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

## **HYMN CHOICES**

Take My Life and Let It Be - TLH #400

I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus - TLH #428