

## **Lesson 26 - Daniel and the scary sleepover**

### **Daniel and the lions' den, from Daniel 6**

*The Jesus Storybook Bible - pgs.152 - 159*

#### **Lesson**

Daniel was one of the Israelites exiled and living in Babylon after the fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar in the sixth century BC. A few notes on Daniel's character:

Daniel was a man of prayer. Daniel 2 is the first time we see Daniel at prayer, but it won't be the last. One of the main lessons of the book of Daniel is the importance and centrality of prayer. In chapter 6, verse 10 we read that Daniel prayed three times a day, regularly. We are told that Daniel always opened his windows toward Jerusalem and prayed daily. This was a very public act and generally known — that is why the officials were able to “target” this practice in their legislative decree. In Daniel 9 we have a long version of one of the great prayers of the Bible.

Daniel was incorruptible. One of the problems with the government in that time was that those who got into power became corrupt and cheated both those under them and those over them of their due. Part of Daniel's incorruptibility is his willingness to be a straight shooter. In Daniel chapters 1 – 2 and 4 – 5 we find that he is absolutely fearless and willing to tell the truth even when it is dangerous.

Daniel was diligent. The two reasons mentioned in chapter 6, verse 4 for Daniel's effectiveness was that he was “neither corrupt nor negligent.” That means that he overlooked nothing, worked extremely hard, and was highly conscientious.

Daniel was “exceptional.” In chapter 6, verse 3 we are told Daniel distinguished himself “by his exceptional qualities.” This is how the NIV translates the text, which older versions render: “because of the excellent spirit that was in him.” The word means “excelling” or “surpassing,” and it probably has to do with leadership. His wisdom, ability, character, and vision were overwhelming; and those around him sensed it, bowed to it, and followed it.

It is amazing that the officials could devise a decree that would trap only Daniel because he was a man of such integrity. The decree they proposed was unenforceable, and any ordinary man would have simply closed his windows and prayed privately for 30 days and kept out of trouble. But they must have known that Daniel was such a man of principle that he would not change his prayer practice at all even under the threat of death.

A few notes of comparison:

- As with Jesus, Daniel was hated without cause. He was hated simply because he was light, and the darkness hates exposure.
- As with Jesus, Daniel was attacked by high officials and people in power. Jesus, a religious leader, was envied and resented by other religious leaders, so Daniel, a civic leader, was hated by other civic leaders.
- As with Jesus, Daniel was condemned by law in a miscarriage of justice.
- As with Jesus, Daniel did not protest and accuse his accusers in any way.
- As with Jesus, his enemies thought that that would be the last they would ever have to see of him.
- As with Jesus, the stone over Daniel's "grave" is rolled away and he comes forth.

**Memory Verse**

Salvation comes from the LORD. (Jonah 2:9)

\*\*\*Lesson taken from *The Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum*, written by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Sam Shammas.

If you do not have a copy of The Jesus Storybook Bible, we will have them for purchase in Cranmer Hall for \$10.