



STEP OUT!

Let God deal with the 'lions'.

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Despite any opposition you may face here on earth as God's child, you can make the personal decision to remain loyal to the Lord and to trust in His perfect timing.

By the time Darius became the next King of Babylon, Daniel was no longer a young man. Daniel had grown in both wisdom and influence within the kingdom.

The entire kingdom was very large, so Darius chose to set one hundred and twenty princes over his kingdom to assist in governing it. Then over those one hundred and twenty princes he appointed three presidents with Daniel being one of them.

The king really favoured Daniel because Daniel had such an excellent spirit (Daniel 6:3) and the king wanted to put him in charge over all the leaders.

This in turn created jealousy within the hearts of the other presidents and princes; and they conspired to find fault with Daniel's actions, so that they could report it against him to the king.

Can you imagine such a large crowd trying to scrutinise your every move?

Wonderfully so, they could not actually find a single fault in Daniel's conduct. There was no corruption and no misconduct because Daniel was so diligent in what he did, and because he was a righteous son of the Lord.

Then this group conspired to set him up in a murderous plot in respect to his belief in God. They literally used his own religion against him. They also tricked the king to participate, by saying that they felt that everyone in the kingdom should only bow down to the king and worship him and no one else. They asked him to sign a special decree pertaining to this.

Regrettably, the king succumbed to this pressure and agreed to the proposed plan. Unaware and oblivious, he failed to grasp that Daniel consistently engaged in open prayer to his God.

Despite this decree signed by the king, Daniel did not change his actions:

When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

The corrupt leaders made a deliberate attempt to catch Daniel in the act of praying to the Lord. They then told the king that Daniel was dishonouring him by praying to his God.

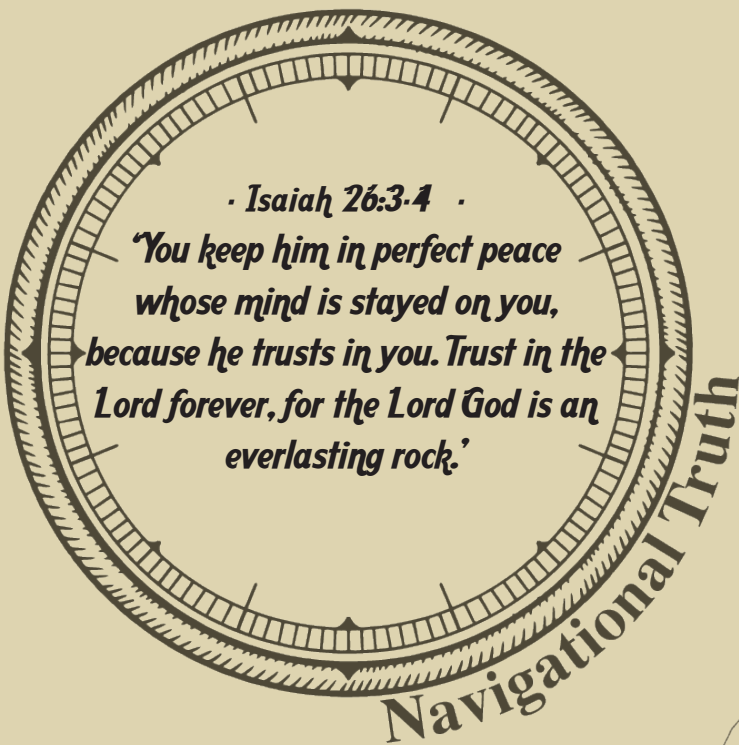
It was only then that the king realised what had actually transpired. He tried everything in his own possible strength to help Daniel but unfortunately, he couldn't go against what he had signed. So, Daniel was thrown into a den of lions; and a stone was placed over the entrance of the den so that no one could get in or out of it. Even so the King encouraged Daniel that his God will save him, and he even fasted for Daniel and stayed up all night.

In God's glory and might, He sent an angel into the den to shut the mouths of those ferocious wild animals. Daniel was completely unharmed.

Daniel remained a loyal son to the Lord in his faith and worship, so God honoured Daniel by preserving his life and giving him His peace.

God worked the situation to the good and King Darius wrote a special decree that everyone in his Kingdom should honour and respect Daniel's God. He proclaimed how God is a miracle worker who rescued Daniel from the lions.

As God's son or daughter, you have a choice; to remain loyal in testing times, and to put your trust in God, despite the opposition you may face. You can trust God for His hand of preservation and for His divine peace.



Renovar
Ministries

Written by: Nadine de Lange
Designed by: Astri Saestad
Edited by: Carl Roodnick
Copyright: Nadine de Lange 2024
English Standard Version (ESV)
Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.