



Spending the Night with Lions

Daniel 1:12-21

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- Ez. 14:14, 20 - “Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness, says the Lord GOD... 20 even though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, says the Lord GOD, they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness.”
- Ez. 28:3 - “Behold, you are wiser than Daniel! There is no secret that can be hidden from you!”

Spending the Night with Lions

- Noah, one of only eight in a world filled with great evil
- Job, righteous even though personally targeted by Satan
- Daniel, righteous in the capitol city of the most powerful, pagan empire in the history of the world

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- Daniel, “God is my Judge,” was a young royal in Jerusalem taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian, serving him and all of the kings through Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Persian, about 65 years
- His captivity was foretold by Isaiah to King Hezekiah
 - Isa. 39:6-7 - “Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left, says the LORD. 7 And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”

Spending the Night with Lions

- Daniel rose from a captive, emasculated teenager in a foreign, pagan land to second in command to four of the greatest kings of two of the greatest world empires. Not just a young man who spent the night in the lions' den
- “The predictions of things to come that relate to the state of the Church amongst the old Prophets, Daniel is most distinct in order of time and easiest to be understood. Daniel is in the greatest credit amongst the Jews, and to reject his prophecies, is to reject the Christian religion.” (*Sir Isaac Newton, Observations Upon the Prophecies of Daniel, 1733*)

A Godly Young Man

- Daniel possessed great conviction
 - Dan. 1:12-16 - “Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants. 14 So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days. 15 And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. 16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.”

A Godly Young Man

- For believers in God, there are three realms of morality:
 - That which is always right,
 - That which is always wrong,
 - That which is a scruple of conscience in which the believer is at liberty to choose, guided by his love for God and his fellowman, and on his personal conviction

A Godly Young Man

- Daniel acted in all three of these realms
- Believers do not shape their morals, ideals, and ethics to adapt to circumstances, pressures, or non-spiritual needs

A Godly Young Man

- Daniel's conviction made him exceptional
 - Dan. 1:19-21 - "Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. 20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm. 21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus."

A Godly Servant Of The King

- Daniel served the king while delivering prophecies about the kingdom of God, proving that one can do both.
 - Dan. 2:36-48
 - Matt. 16:18 - “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”
 - Heb. 12:28 - “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”

A Godly Servant Of The King

- Nebuchadnezzar is humbled by God, and Daniel tells him about his sins and his need to be righteous. One can do both.
 - Dan. 4:24-28, 34, 37

A Godly Servant Of The King

- Darius put him over all of the governors in his empire, and Daniel served the king honorably and God faithfully. One can do both
 - Dan. 6:1-3 - “It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; 2 and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. 3 Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.”

A Godly Servant Of The King

- Daniel's service won the heart of the king, even though Daniel prayed to God in violation of the king's command. One can do right in defiance of civil government and still be appreciated by government.
 - Dan. 6:14 - "And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him."

A Godly Servant Of The King

- Daniel's service created faith in a pagan king
 - Dan. 6:25-28 - "Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. 26 I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end. 27 He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. 28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian."

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- We like to think that Daniel's greatest feat was spending the night with lions.
- His greatest works were serving God faithfully as a teenager and serving God faithfully and the king honorably as a man. These were greater lions than the felidae pathera leo in the gob pit
- 1Peter 5:8-9 - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."