



Daniel was a very wise and honorable man. He was forced to leave his homeland and live in Babylon where he was called to serve the king. Daniel loved God, and decided to trust in Him even if he was far from home. He was a trustworthy and diligent worker who always did his best and King Darius became very pleased with him. This king gave Daniel a place of high honor and leadership in the land.

Other workers in the palace soon became jealous of Daniel and tried to get him in trouble with the king. They were just waiting for Daniel to make a mistake or break a rule, any rule, so that they could then go report him to the king. This never worked because Daniel did his job so carefully. Daniel followed the rules and did well, so there was nothing to report.

Frustrated, they began to form a plan to get rid of Daniel permanently. They knew that Daniel loved God and spent time in prayer everyday, so they went before King Darius and encouraged him to make a law.

"King Darius," they said, "You are truly a great king who should be honored, and therefore you should make a law that no one in the land is allowed to pray to anyone but you. And if anyone defies this law, they should be thrown into a den full of hungry lions!"

That sounded like a great idea to the king, and soon this law was passed. Those evil men were just waiting to trap Daniel because they knew he was still going to pray to God. Sure enough, Daniel went home, opened his windows like he always did, and began to pray.

The evil men ran to the king and reported Daniel. Now the king was truly upset! He really liked Daniel, but now he had no choice! He had to punish Daniel because of this law he had just passed! Soon the guards came and took Daniel away. Into the lions den he went!

The king was so upset he couldn't eat dinner that night, and he could not sleep at all. As soon as the sun began to come up the next day, he ran to the entrance of the lion's den and called out, "Daniel? Are you well? Has your God protected you from the lions?"

Daniel answered him back! He told the king that God had sent an angel to protect him, and the lions didn't hurt him at all - not one scratch, not one nibble!

The king was overjoyed and commanded the guards to bring Daniel out right away. He then turned to the evil men that had tried to trap Daniel and sent them into the lions den instead!

God saw that Daniel was going to be faithful to God no matter what - and God was faithful to Daniel too.