



## Why Was Daniel So Special? (Part III)

**Daniel 2:47: (NASB) *The king answered Daniel and said, Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery.***



**Dare to be a Daniel!**

When you begin to grasp the life and times of Daniel the Prophet, what you find in your hands is pure inspiration, integrity, faith and courage. Here is a man who lived out his entire life far from his home in Israel and who, by God's grace, turned captivity to a pagan nation into an opportunity to reveal the greatness of the

One God and eventually win over the King who made him captive. When we grow up, we should all want to be like Daniel! Stay with us as we continue his story.

**Please refer to "Why Was Daniel So Special? (Parts I and II)" from our program broadcasts on March 23 and April 6, 2014.**

A quick review:

After Daniel dramatically reveals the dream, its source and its interpretation, the King elevates him to the highest position in Babylon - at the King's own right hand.

The "Lion's Den Lesson" of:

**FAME AND  
FORTUNE**

Such recognition as this only comes as a result of bold and decisive action. So often our initial response to such praise and honor will reveal the truest fabric of our heart. Prepare from the inside out so that fame and fortune, should they come, will merely be reflected in your life as a changed outward circumstance and not a change of heart!

Are we prepared from the inside out when fame and fortune may come our way?

The next event in the account of Daniel happened about 20 years after this dream event and did not include Daniel but focused on his three Hebrew companions, Mishial, Hannaniah and Azariah. They refused to bow down to the golden image the King erected. Their punishment was death by fiery furnace. They were miraculously delivered and the King lauds their God (though he does not proclaim him as THE God over ALL).

The "Lion's Den Lesson" of:

**POWER AND  
COMFORT**

Even in the context and comfort of the greatest powers of the greatest men that rule the kingdoms of this earth, there must only be one place where God's chosen ones find their rest and loyalty. Again, this is a result of an "inside out" faith that has its roots firmly in your heart and is often developed and cultivated through fellowship. Power and comfort are circumstances; faith and actions are characteristics.



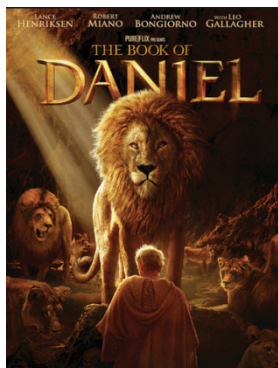
True integrity can only be fully appreciated after the fact, for it is in hindsight that we are able to observe all of the moving parts that were affected by the actions of such integrity.

Another 10 or so years have passed. Babylon flourishes under the rule of the mighty King Nebuchadnezzar.

All is well, until one day...



The dream of the tree recited, *The Book of Daniel* (2013 movie)



- I looked and saw before me a tree in the middle of the land. The tree grew strong and tall. Its top touched the sky, and it was visible to the ends of the earth. Its leaves...they were beautiful. Its fruit was abundant. The beasts of the field took shelter under it and the birds of the air lived in its branches, and from it every creature was fed. Then I looked again, and I saw a messenger coming down from heaven, and he cried out aloud, "Cut down the tree. Trim off its branches. Strip its leaves. Scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and let the birds fly from its branches. But let the stump and its roots bound in iron and brass remain in the ground in the grass of the field. Let it be drenched by the dew from heaven. Let it live with the animals of the earth and let its mind be changed from that of a man to the mind of an animal." This is the dream that I had.*

**Daniel 4:10-16:** (NRSV) <sup>10</sup>Upon my bed this is what I saw; there was a tree at the center of the earth, and its height was great. <sup>11</sup>The tree grew great and strong, its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the ends of the whole earth.....<sup>13</sup>and there was a holy watcher, coming down from heaven. <sup>14</sup>He cried aloud and said: Cut down the tree and chop off its branches, strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit....<sup>15</sup>But leave its stump and roots in the ground, with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field. Let him be bathed with the dew of heaven, and let his lot be with the animals of the field in the grass of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Let his mind be changed from that of a human, and let the mind of an animal be given to him. And let seven times pass over him.

All of the King's "seers" could not interpret this dream, so Daniel is called in.

**What would you do if you had to deliver horrible personal news to the world's mightiest King?**

**Daniel's response:**

**Daniel 4:19:** (NRSV) Then Daniel, who was called Belteshazzar, was severely distressed for a while. His thoughts terrified him...Belteshazzar answered, My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you, and its interpretation for your enemies!

God had blessed Daniel with instant knowledge of this dream and it was BAD NEWS!



### Daniel establishes the object of the message:

Daniel 4:20,22: (NRSV) <sup>20</sup>*The tree that you saw, which grew great and strong,...<sup>22</sup>it is you, O king! You have grown great and strong. Your greatness has increased and reaches to heaven, and your sovereignty to the ends of the earth.*

### Daniel establishes the source of this message:

Daniel 4:23-24: (NASB) <sup>23</sup>*In that the king saw an angelic watcher, a holy one, descending from heaven and saying, Chop down the tree and destroy it; yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze around it in the new grass of the field, and let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him share with the beasts of the field until seven periods of time pass over him,<sup>24</sup>this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:*



Daniel clearly pronounces the Most High God's message of judgment.

### The interpretation of the tree, *The Book of Daniel (2013 movie)*

- *This is the interpretation, O King, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the King. You will be driven away from people and live with the wild animals. You will eat grass like cattle until you acknowledge the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He wishes. The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that the Most High rules.*

Daniel 4:25: (NRSV) <sup>25</sup>*You shall be driven away from human society, and your dwelling shall be with the wild animals. You shall be made to eat grass like oxen, you shall be bathed with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, until you have learned that the Most High has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals, and gives it to whom he will.*

Daniel gives urgent counsel to the King to humble himself with selfless acts of goodness.

### The interpretation of the tree, *The Book of Daniel (2013 movie)*

- *(Daniel) Therefore, O King, be pleased to accept my advice. Renounce your sins by doing what is right and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. Seek the Lord while He may be found and it may be that your prosperity will continue.*
- *(Narrator) But the memory of kings is often short.*

Daniel 4:27: (NRSV) *Therefore, O king, may my counsel be acceptable to you: atone for your sins with righteousness, and your iniquities with mercy to the oppressed, so that your prosperity may (possibly) be prolonged.*

What a lesson for all of us! Knowledge breeds responsibility. Nebuchadnezzar had seen the workings of the Almighty God for many decades by this point.

### The consequence for unheeded warnings:

Daniel 4:28-32: (NRSV) <sup>28</sup>*All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar* <sup>29</sup>*At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon,* <sup>30</sup>*and the king said, Is this not magnificent Babylon, which I have built as a royal capital by my mighty power and for my glorious majesty?* <sup>31</sup>*While the words were still in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven:*





*O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: The kingdom has departed from you! <sup>32</sup>You shall be driven away from human society, and your dwelling shall be with the animals of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like oxen, and seven times shall pass over you, until you have learned that the Most High has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals and gives it to whom he will.*

Now for the next seven years Babylon was without a king. Daniel most likely served mightily assisting in his absence as the king roamed about as a beast, now completely irrelevant to the great kingdom he had built. Seven times = seven years...



"Nebuchadnezzar,"  
by William Blake  
copper plate –  
c. 1795  
Tate Britain, London

What does a humbled and faithful heart look like?

King Nebuchadnezzar reflects on his seven years of difficulty:

### **The Results of a Truly Humbled Heart:**

**Daniel 4:34-37: (NRSV) <sup>34</sup>When that period was over, I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me. I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored the one who lives forever. For his sovereignty is an everlasting sovereignty, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation...**

**1st Lesson: God is Lord over all  
that we build – His kingdom is  
mighty and everlasting!**



**35...All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does what he wills with the host of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth. There is no one who can stay his hand or say to him, "What are you doing?" 36At that time my reason returned to me; and my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom. My counselors and my lords sought me out, I was re-established over my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. 37Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are truth...**

**2nd Lesson: God is the ultimate destination of all our praise and worship!**

**...and his ways are justice; and he is able to bring low those who walk in pride.**

**3rd Lesson: God is Lord over who we are, from "the inside out!"**

 **Nebuchadnezzar is humble, *The Book of Daniel* (2013 movie)**

- Beware your place, for I am not as I was. Let it be recorded that I, Nebuchadnezzar, do praise, exalt and glorify the King of Heaven because everything He does is right and all His ways are just. And those who walk in pride, He is able to humble.*





The "Lion's Den Lesson" of:

# INTEGRITY

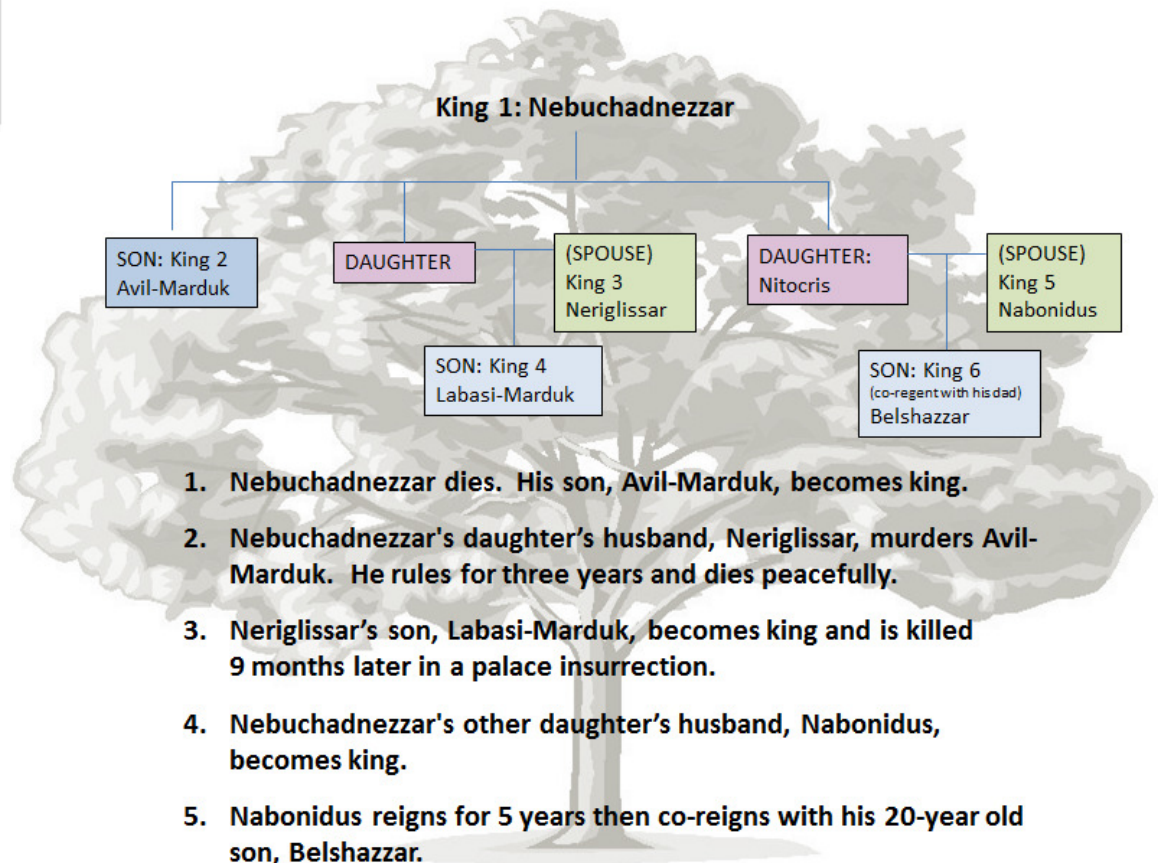
There are times in life when we are called upon to do or say those things which are simply awkward, patently uncomfortable or absolutely dangerous. If our conviction is truly from "the inside out," then the courage to stand in honesty and truth will be present as it was with Daniel. This test is also for those who might be on the receiving end as the King was. They, as we ourselves, must also find the humility to stand for only that which is true and righteous.

Ephesians 6:10,13: (NASB) <sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might...<sup>13</sup>Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.



Daniel is now probably in his 60's, and his life is about to take an entirely different path. For the last 40+ years, he had faithfully served King Nebuchadnezzar, now deceased. Now with the "head of gold" gone, Babylon would slowly begin its unraveling process.

There is about a 13-year gap between the death of Nebuchadnezzar and the beginning of Chapter 5. As we review this gap, it is important to realize that Daniel is no longer an advisor to royalty, rather, he is just a normal citizen.



King Nebuchadnezzar had represented great stability in Babylon.

Daniel 5:1: (NRSV) *King Belshazzar made a great festival for a thousand of his lords, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.*

(Bible commentary from A.O. Hudson) Nabonidus was a better archaeologist than king; his devouring passion was the collecting of relics of the civilizations that were as much older than his own time as his time is older than ours. After reigning five years, the growing aggressiveness of the Persians under Cyrus demanded a younger man- and that led him to associate himself with his son Belshazzar as joint king. This event marks what the book of Daniel calls “first year of Belshazzar the king”... Belshazzar at little more than twenty years of age became the real Ruler of Babylon.

Daniel 7:1: Daniel's vision of the 4 beasts...

Daniel 8:1: Daniel's vision of the ram and the goat...

Daniel has now been held in captivity for more than 50 years. He spent the first forty of those years in active duty to the world's mightiest king followed by thirteen years spent in quiet meditation, writing the prophecies of Daniel 7 and 8. He was no longer in public service.

Now after more than 50 years, the prophet is finally tuned in enough to see the most far reaching visions of world history and the overruling power of the Almighty ever given anytime, anywhere. He was praying three times a day and was looking for deliverance for his people. He knew the prophecy involved 70 years of captivity and time was getting close!



The "Lion's Den Lesson" of:  
**TIME AND  
OBSCURITY**

While there are impactful lessons and examples we see from those in the limelight, there are perhaps even more dramatic examples from those who are in obscurity, for they carry a banner that no one sees, and yet they carry it. God's heroes truly do stand firm and devout through the test of time...

Here is what the Apostle Paul wrote while in prison - he is still faithful even though he is no longer in public view:

2 Timothy 4:6-8: <sup>6</sup>For now I am ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup>I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: <sup>8</sup>Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.



Nine years have passed since the visions of Chapters 7 and 8 and Daniel is now in his 80's! Belshazzar, the young egotistical co-king, now in his mid-30's or so, makes a great feast as we open this next chapter of Daniel's life.

Daniel 5:1: This feast is to one thousand of his lords, and he drinks wine before them.

Daniel 5:2-3: (NRSV) <sup>2</sup>Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar commanded that they bring in the vessels of gold and silver that his (grand) father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. <sup>3</sup>So they brought in the vessels of gold and silver that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them.

This was not a good decision! His drunken revelry expanded and degraded to now defile the temple vessels. He included women in his folly, and they all drank from the sacred vessels of God.





🔊) **Vessels misused, *The Book of Daniel* (2013 movie)**

- *You see these vessels? In Jerusalem they were used for the worship of their God. Now instead of the blood of bulls and rams, let them flow with foaming wine. For I am not a devourer of blood. I am a devourer of drink and choice fair! To Marduk, god of our city! (People toasting to Marduk) And to our idols of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone. Partake of our pleasures and protect our city!*

Daniel 5:4-6: (NRSV) <sup>4</sup>*They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.* <sup>5</sup>*Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the wall of the royal palace, next to the lampstand. The king was watching the hand as it wrote.* <sup>6</sup>*Then the king's face turned pale, and his thoughts terrified him. His limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together.*

It is amazing how fast things can change when the wrath of God comes down upon you...!

“Belshazzar’s Feast,”  
by Rembrandt  
oil on canvas—  
c. 1635/39  
National Gallery,  
London



**Would you be courageous enough to tell a drunken king that he was about to lose everything?**

Daniel 5:7-8: Just like the old days! The King panics, calls in the astrologers, Chaldeans, soothsayers and offers a reward for understanding of the mysterious writing.

Daniel 5:9-11: <sup>9</sup>*Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were silent.* <sup>10</sup>*Now the queen (his mother) by reason of the words of the king and his lords came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live forever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed.* <sup>11</sup>*There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods;*

**Please refer to more detail on this section in the Bonus Material.**



**Daniel 5:13-14,16:** (NRSV) <sup>13</sup>*Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king said to Daniel <sup>14</sup>I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems... <sup>16</sup>Now if you are able to read the writing and tell me its interpretation, you shall be clothed in purple, have a chain of gold around your neck, and rank third in the kingdom.*

This king is desperate! He offers riches and position - third in the kingdom. Why third? Because Belshazzar was second, still under the shadow of his aging father, Nabonidus. This was essentially the same rank Daniel had when he was under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar, but his life was not about outward recognition.

**Daniel 5:17:** *Then Daniel answered and said unto the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known unto him the interpretation.*

**Daniel recapped the history of King Nebuchadnezzar and then directly faced the arrogance of this young, prideful man:**

**Daniel 5:22-23,25:** <sup>22</sup>*And thou his grandson, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this; <sup>23</sup>But hast lifted thyself up against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, <sup>25</sup>And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and UPHARSIN.*



**Handwriting and judgment, *The Book of Daniel* (2013 movie)**

- (Daniel) This is His answer to you. The Lord God will strike you down like an enemy, for He has bidden His angel to unsheathe his sword. These then are the words He has written. God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. "TEKEL" - You have been weighed in the scales and found wanting. Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians. This very night your life will be demanded of you and before the sun rises, your flesh will grow cold, thus says the Lord. Your line is ended. Your rule is over. Your kingship is no more.*

Belshazzar was held accountable because he lived through Nebuchadnezzar's experience and absolutely knew better.



**MENE:** God hath numbered thy kingdom, and hath finished it.

**TEKEL:** Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

**UPHARSIN:** Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and the Persians.

**Daniel 5:29-31:** (NRSV) <sup>29</sup>*Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed in purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made concerning him that he should rank third in the kingdom. <sup>30</sup>That very night Belshazzar, the Chaldean king, was killed. <sup>31</sup>And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.*

This was the wrath of God against the pride of kings poured out by an old prophet. This King reaped the judgment of his actions.



The "Lion's Den Lesson" of:

# RIGHTEOUS COURAGE

Righteous courage is action - not reckless action or a knee jerk response - based in that which is true and necessary. It is always met with the resistance of this world's influences. Righteous courage is rare, inspiring and transformative!

(The Apostle Peter to Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5 is a great example of righteous courage.)



In his 80's, Daniel is back in the limelight solely by virtue of his character and godliness:

Daniel 6:1-3: (NRSV) <sup>1</sup>*It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred twenty satraps, stationed throughout the whole kingdom, <sup>2</sup>and over them three presidents, including Daniel; to these the satraps gave account, so that the king might suffer no loss. <sup>3</sup>Soon Daniel distinguished himself above all the other presidents and satraps **because an excellent spirit was in him**, and the king planned to appoint him over the whole kingdom.*

Darius obviously has some wisdom and he observed who he could appoint to keep the kingdom running after the death of Belshazzar. Daniel rises to the top and it is noticed that he is different.





### So, now is it *finally* time for the Lion's Den?!!

Once again Daniel is honored, this time under the Medes and Persians. And now, more than 67 years after being taken captive, the final *public* test arises - not a test necessary to prove Daniel, but a test necessary to witness to the greatness of the Almighty.



#### Plotting against Daniel, *The Book of Daniel* (2013 movie)

- *Daniel being put over us, if we allow it to stand, means our demise. Once he is in charge, he will be looking at everything we do.*
- *Perhaps, perhaps we should eliminate him.*
- *How?*
- *Hunting accident.*
- *He doesn't hunt.*
- *Sudden illness or a drowning?*
- *Who would believe it?*
- *Maybe we can ensnare him.*
- *How? There is no corruption in him. Nor any negligence. He is as diligent as he is skillful.*
- *There must be a way.*
- *He claims he is so effective because three times a day his heart inclines to the city of God.*
- *There is a spirit of excellence in him. In every test he has proven faithful.*
- *No one is that honest.*
- *On the contrary, I had a man try to bribe him once and a very generous bribe at that. He would have no part of it.*
- *Such a man is dangerous.*

Daniel 6:4-5: (NRSV) <sup>4</sup>*So the presidents and the satraps tried to find grounds for complaint against Daniel in connection with the kingdom. But they could find no grounds for complaint or any corruption, because he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption could be found in him.* <sup>5</sup>*The men said, We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.*

So they conspired for a decree to trap Daniel by not allowing anyone to worship any god for thirty days...except King Darius!

#### Darius signs the decree into law:

Daniel 6:10-11: (NRSV) <sup>10</sup>*Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously.* <sup>11</sup>*The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God.*



Daniel's loyalties are unchanged. Like a man of integrity, Daniel continues his worship of and communion with his God. So, just like children, the conspirators run to the King and remind him of the decree and the firmness of his word. They tell the King that Daniel, his faithful and trusted servant, had blatantly disobeyed his word.

Daniel 6:14: (NRSV) *When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him.*

The King's heart was right, but his "advisors" would not let him change what he had done.

Daniel 6:16-17: (NRSV) *<sup>16</sup>Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you! <sup>17</sup>A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.*

Daniel faces sure death for no good reason as the King reveals his prayer for Daniel.

Many paintings depict Daniel in this scene as a strong, young man - but he would have been over 80 years old!



"Daniel in the Lion's Den," by Peter Paul Rubens  
oil on canvas—  
c. 1615  
National Gallery at Art, Washington DC

 Praying in the lion's den, *The Book of Daniel* (2013 movie)

- *God have mercy on me. In You my soul takes refuge in the midst of lions, surrounded by ravenous beasts with teeth as spears. With tongues as sharp as swords. I call upon your name, O Lord, from the depths of the pit hear my plea. Come near and say, "Do not fear." O Lord, take up my face. Redeem my life.*



**Daniel 6:18-22:** (NRSV) <sup>18</sup>Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him. <sup>19</sup>Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. <sup>20</sup>When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions? <sup>21</sup>Daniel then said to the king, O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup>My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.

Once again, the impossible is overcome! Daniel lived his life faithfully.

**Daniel 6:26-28:** (NRSV) <sup>25</sup>Then King Darius wrote to all peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: May you have abundant prosperity! <sup>26</sup>I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: For he is the living God, enduring forever. His kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end. <sup>27</sup>He delivers and rescues, he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for he has saved Daniel from the power of the lions. <sup>28</sup>So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius ~~and~~ (even) the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

The "Lion's Den Lesson" of:

**CERTAIN  
DEATH**

This test is the result of a lifetime of growth -  
to put all on the table,  
to spend and be spent.

*Be thou faithful unto death  
and I will give you a crown of life.*

We need to make the choice to live our lives every day in this same context of putting God first! Dare to be a Daniel! Daniel was a special prophet. Learn his lessons to put them into practice in your life!

*So, why was Daniel so special?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...  
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*







**Daniel 5:9-12: (KJV)** <sup>9</sup>*Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were silent.* <sup>10</sup>*Now the queen (his mother) by reason of the words of the king and his lords came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live forever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed.* <sup>11</sup>*There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy (grand) father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy (grand) father, the king, I say thy (grand) father made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans and soothsayers;* <sup>12</sup>*Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and showing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.*

Take notice of the clarity with which Daniel is remembered, and the repeated reminders that the King's own grandfather relied on him implicitly. Belshazzar was about eight or nine when his grandfather recovered from his seven years as a beast and undoubtedly knew well the story, knew well of Daniel and knew well of the Almighty God. He knew...

Now, onto the new government of the Medes and the Persians:

(Source: Biblical commentary by A.O. Hudson) Who, then, was Darius the Mede? There are two credible options for this. Perhaps he was Gubaru, appointed by Cyrus to govern the city. This view is ably supported in the study titled *Darius the Mede*, by John Whitcomb, 1963. In this case Darius was a subordinate of Cyrus, appointed by Cyrus.

Another view has been promoted by D. J. Wiseman, formerly keeper of antiquities in the British Museum. His view is that Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Persian are the same person. The father of Cyrus was Persian, the mother of Cyrus was Median, and "Darius the Mede" would be the Median designation of this conqueror.

This view is supported by Daniel 6:28, translating the Hebrew *waw* as "even" rather than "and."

So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, even in the reign of Cyrus the Persian. Compare this to a similar construction in 1 Chronicles 5:26 which identified one king with two separate names.

**1 Chronicles 5:26: (NASB)** *So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul, king of Assyria, even the spirit of Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria...*

**The conclusion of the story of Daniel after the Lion's Den incident:**

It is about three years later that King Cyrus declares freedom for Israel. Daniel is now aged and never does leave Babylon. Though still there for the rest of his days, he remains the freest man in all the land, for he has his faith, he has seen miracles, he has prophesied, and he has seen prophesies come true. He was a hero of God.

So what happens now? Daniel, a man with an old and broken body stays behind, still a captive to a foreign land. Perhaps being thrown into the den itself three years previous caused physical pain. Regardless, Daniel continued serving the living God with all of his life energy.



**Daniel 10** happened in the third year of the reign of Cyrus. Daniel was about 90 years old and even now, after all else is done, look at his absolute and intense dedication to, and his deep desire for communication with, his God.

**Daniel 10:2-3:** (KJV) *<sup>2</sup>In those days, I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. <sup>3</sup>I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.*

**And again, Daniel is comforted:**

**Daniel 10:10-13:** (KJV) *<sup>10</sup>And behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. <sup>11</sup>And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee and stand upright: for unto thee I am now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. <sup>12</sup>Then he said unto me, Fear not Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. <sup>13</sup>But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but lo, Micheal, one of the chief princes came to help me; and I remained there with the king of Persia.*

What a connection he had! What a dedication was shown to him in this battle in the heavens over his comfort and over giving him understanding!