

Lesson II.

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

October 8, 1905

Daniel 6 : 10-23. Study the chapter—Memory Verses, 21-23.

Golden Text—The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.—Psalm 34 : 7.

own signet, and with the signet of his lords ; that the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Dan'iel to deliver him ; and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting ; neither were instruments of music brought before him : and his sleep went from him.

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Dan'iel : and the king spake and said to Dan'iel, O Dan'iel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions ?

21 Then said Dan'iel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me : forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me ; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Dan'iel up out of the den. So Dan'iel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Because Daniel was upright, and Darius, king of Persia, had made him chief ruler in his kingdom, the other princes hated Daniel and plotted how they might destroy him. Because they could not find him out in any wrongdoing, they watched and planned how they might catch and punish him for his religion. Knowing Daniel to be a faithful worshipper of the Lord God of Israel, these wicked princes went to the king and persuaded him to make a law such as no one had power to change, saying that, for a month, anyone found praying to any God or man except to the king himself, should be punished by being thrown into a den of lions.

When Daniel knew that the law was signed, he went into his house, and leaving the windows open towards Jerusalem, he kneeled and prayed aloud to God, as he had always

done three times every day. But his enemies were watching, and went immediately and told the king that Daniel had broken his decree.

Then Darius, who loved Daniel, was very angry with himself for having made such a law, and tried to think of some plan to save his servant, but it was too late. That very evening at sunset, Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, the mouth of which was closed with a large stone, sealed with the king's seal, that no one might move it.

That night Darius could neither eat nor sleep, nor listen to the music which was usually played before him. He was thinking of Daniel, and was greatly troubled.

When it was just beginning to be light, the king arose, and running to the mouth of the den, he called in a loud voice, "O Daniel, has

any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions ? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Dan'iel, which is of the children of the captivity of Ju'dah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

14 Then the king commanded, and they brought Dan'iel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Dan'iel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den ; and the king sealed it with his purpose might not be changed concerning Dan'iel.

18 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Dan'iel to deliver him ; and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

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