



## LESSON V.—JULY 30.

**Daniel in the Den of Lions.**

Dan. vi., 19-23. Memory verses, 21-23. Read the whole chapter.

**Golden Text.**

'The Lord is thy keeper.'—Psa. cxxi., 5.

**Home Readings.**

- M. Daniel vi., 1-9.—Conspiracy against Daniel.  
 T. Daniel vi., 10-17.—Daniel in the den of lions.  
 W. Daniel vi., 18-28.—Daniel in the den of lions.  
 T. Psalm lvi.—Trust in the Lord.  
 F. Acts v., 25-32.—God rather than man.  
 S. II. Tim. iv., 1-8, 16-18.—Delivered.  
 S. Rev. ii., 1-10.—Be faithful!

**Lesson Text.**

Supt.—10. Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and, his windows being open in his chamber toward Je-ru'-sa-lem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

School.—11. Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

12. Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of 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 Daniel, 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, when he heard these words, was sore 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.

15. Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

16. Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, 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 own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

18. Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting; neither were instruments of musick 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 Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

21. Then said Daniel 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 Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

**The Bible Class.**

'Deliverance.'—I. Cor. x., 13.—Psa. l., 15.

**Suggestions**

Darius the Mede was king at Babylon, subject to Cyrus, who reigned over the whole empire of the Medes and Persians. Darius appointed a hundred and twenty princes to

rule over the kingdom, and over these he placed three presidents, of whom Daniel was the first in rank and importance, being practically at the head of the realm.

The upright and godly Daniel was much disliked and feared by the princes and presidents beneath him. They knew that he was honorable and true in every particular, and wished them to be the same. They could not bear his just rule over them, nor the constant reproof of his righteous character. Therefore, they plotted against him that he might be removed from authority. They gathered together and tried to find some fault in his character or ruling, some unfaithfulness to the king or dishonesty toward the people (such as their own lives were full of), but they could find no just occasion for complaint against him. Daniel was fearlessly faithful to his God, to the king, and to the people.

With great subtlety and diabolical ingenuity these men then laid a trap for Daniel. Knowing of his loyalty to Jehovah, they determined to make his prayers and worship a crime. So with cunning flattery and impudent persuasions, they insisted that the king should sign a decree forbidding that prayer should be made to any being other than the king himself, for thirty days. The king signed the decree, probably without the thought that any possible harm could come of it. Darius was full of conceit and weak-minded vanity, and loved to be worshipped as a god. The princes were sure of Daniel's destruction now, for the penalty of breaking this new law was to be cast into the den of lions.

Even his worst enemies believed that he would be true to God though it should cost him his life. Daniel could not have retained his spiritual power had he failed to honor God in this trial. If his enemies had found that they could frighten him into unfaithfulness to his God, they would have soon found some means of proving him unfaithful to the king, and accomplished his downfall in some other way. Daniel's God is our God, but many a man comes short of being a Daniel because of unfaithfulness in just such a time of trial. Daniel might have prayed in secret and worshipped God just as truly; but his enemies would have seen that he feared them more than he trusted Jehovah. Daniel had been blessed and prospered in every way by serving and honoring God, he could not dishonor him now and expect to be blessed.

Daniel was praying much for his people at this time, it being near the close of the seventy years' captivity. When Daniel heard of the decree he must have been sorely tempted to save his life in some way or other, but he realized that death was in every way preferable to dishonor or what would have been for him a sin. Therefore, he continued in his usual way of praying to Jehovah three times a day on his knees with his windows open to Jerusalem.

The princes, knowing when he was accustomed to speak to God, hurried to his house to catch him in the act. Having seen him on his knees, they then hastened to the king to inform him of Daniel's conduct. The king was filled with remorse when he saw what his vain and foolish decree had led to. He valued Daniel, knowing his perfect trustworthiness and loyalty. He tried his best to find some way of escape for him, but the princes were determined that Daniel should be destroyed, so they declared the king's decree unalterable. Darius weakly yielded to them, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions to be devoured. The king sorrowed much, but assured Daniel that Jehovah would surely deliver him.

All night the king was tormented with regrets for that folly of his which had brought the faithful Daniel into such a position. At earliest dawn the wretched Darius hurried to the mouth of the den to see if Daniel's God could deliver. With what joy and praise Daniel answered, telling how God had shut the lions' mouths and delivered the man who trusted him. Then the king had Daniel speedily taken up out of the pit, and wrathfully ordered that all his enemies should be cast in instead.

The king wrote to all his dominion bidding the people acknowledge and worship the God of Daniel, who had wrought such wondrous deliverances.

**Application.**

'The God that lived in Daniel's time is just the same to-day.' Our God is able to deliver us from trials as great to the soul as the burning furnace or the den of lions. Our God wants faithful and loyal servants. Only through the faithful can God reveal his mighty power.

Let us not be like the princes who tried so hard to find faults in Daniel, it is a mean mind that looks for other men's shortcomings. If we would be noble we must learn to look for and appreciate the nobility of others. Daniel's character is one which we may well study and copy.

**C. E. Topic.**

July 30.—That good part.—Luke x., 38-42.

**Junior C. E.**

July 30.—Pride, and the harm it does.—Phil. ii., 3-15.

**Tobacco Catechism.****CHAPTER VIII.—EFFECTS OF TOBACCO ON THE HEART, LIVER, LUNGS AND SKIN.**

(By Dr. R. H. McDonald, of San Francisco.)

1. Q.—What part of the body does tobacco affect the most?

A.—The heart. It weakens its action, and makes it irregular, so that it does not send a full supply of blood through the body; and the muscles become weak and flabby.

2. Q.—Does tobacco cause heart disease?

A.—Medical statistics show that about one out of every four tobacco users has some trouble of the heart.

3. Q.—What does Dr. Brodie say of the effect of tobacco upon the heart and arteries?

A.—Tobacco has a great effect upon the action of the heart and arteries, and often produces weak, tremulous pulse, with all the symptoms of approaching death.

4. Q.—What is the heart disease produced by tobacco commonly called?

A.—A 'tobacco or smoker's heart.' And this means that by excessive smoking or chewing that the sufferer has overworked his heart, until it has become unsteady in beating.

5. Q.—How does such a heart appear?

A.—A physician who examined 'a tobacco heart,' said, 'it could be picked to pieces with as much ease as a piece of fried liver.'

6. Q.—What official statement has been made?

A.—That 'thousands in our civil war were discharged from the army on account of heart disease, owing largely to the use of tobacco.'

7. Q.—Do insurance companies like to grant policies to applicants addicted to the use of liquor or tobacco?

A.—They are loath to do so, and their physicians report against many persons on the ground that they have what doctors call the 'tobacco heart.'

8. Q.—How does it affect the liver?

A.—It injures the liver by exciting the system; and in this way produces dyspeptic symptoms.

9. Q.—What effect does tobacco have on the lungs?

A.—Experience shows that breathing tobacco smoke several times a day, cannot fail to cause disease of the lungs.

10. Q.—What did C. Q. Drysdale, chief Physician of the Metropolitan Free Hospital of London, say regarding tobacco as a cause of consumption?

A.—He says that he has a great many cases which convinced him that smoking in youth is a common cause of pulmonary consumption.

11. Q.—Does the use of tobacco affect the skin?

A.—People who use tobacco acquire a sallow, lifeless looking skin, which shows the condition of the whole system. The complexion also becomes colorless, and the face and body lean and thin.

12. Q.—Is tobacco absorbed by the skin?

A.—If a cigar be unrolled and moistened, and then applied over the stomach of a child, it will soon bring on sickness and vomiting; and does sometimes cause death.

13. Q.—How have soldiers used tobacco that they might escape from duty?

A.—They have placed it in their armpits so as to cause sickness, and very frequently was this practiced in the war of 1861.

14. Q.—Does smoking cause sore throat?