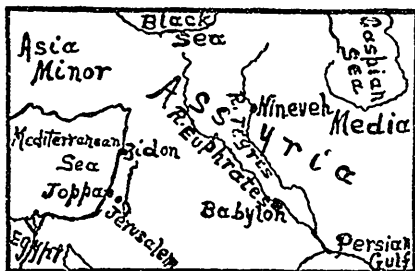


Cast him into the den of lions ; a cave open to the sky and enclosed by high walls. **Thy God . . will deliver thee.** Darius was anxious that Daniel should be saved, and hoped that in some way the wrong he had done would be undone. **Stone . . laid upon the mouth.** Doorways in the East, like tombs, are still commonly closed by great stones. **Sealed it with his own signet.** Perhaps a bar was stretched across the stone and secured to either side of the doorway with thongs, the knotting of which was sealed with wax stamped with a signet. **Signet of his lords ;** for the sake of double security, so that not even the king could tamper with the fastening. **King . . passed the night fasting ;** for grief at Daniel's fate and his own weakness and sin which had brought it about. **Neither . . instruments of music.** He had no heart for his usual enjoyments.

III. DELIVERED.—19-23. The king arose very early ; as soon as it was light. Went in haste ; eager to learn how Daniel had fared. Cried with a lamentable voice ; a voice full of pain. **Servant of the living God ;** who can hear and help, unlike the deaf and powerless gods of the heathen. **My God.** There is a world of familiar confidence in these words. **His angel ;** perhaps the same as the angel of Gen. 24 : 7, 40 ; Ex. 33 : 2 ; Num. 20 : 16 : the Second Person of the Trinity, who thus appeared before He came in the flesh as the world's Saviour. **So Daniel was taken up ;** alive and unharmed. **Because he had trusted in his God (Rev. Ver.) ;** the secret for us, as for Daniel, of safety and peace.

Vs. 24-28 complete the story.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



BABYLON, from B.C. 2,300, was the capital of the country known as Babylonia. How much older Babylon was than the date mentioned, we do not know. The city reached its greatest glory between B.C. 1,800 and B.C. 538. During this period rulers

vied with one another in beautifying the city with buildings and in strengthening its walls. There were 50 streets in all, each 15 miles long and 151 feet broad, running down to the river Euphrates on either side. Amongst the wonders of the city mentioned by historians, were a tunnel under the Euphrates, underground banqueting rooms of brass and hanging gardens.

LESSON QUESTIONS

10 What "writing" is here referred to ? Where was Daniel accustomed to pray ? How many times a day ? In what attitude ? Towards what place did he turn ? What effect had the king's decree upon his practice ? Where does Jesus teach us to pray continually ? (Luke 18 : 1.)

11-15 Who flocked round Daniel's house ? For what purpose ? What demand did they make ? How did the king feel ? What did he strive to do ? Who in the New Testament was sorry for a wicked pledge he had given ? (Matt. 14 : 9.)

16-18 When was Daniel cast into the lions' den ? How was the doorway secured ? Where are we told of the sealing of Jesus' tomb ? (Matt. 27 : 66.) How did the king pass the night ?

19-23 When did the king visit the den ? What did he ask ? Who had been with Daniel ? What was the secret of his safety ?

What was the fate of Daniel's enemies ?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. How much time each day should be spent in prayer ?
2. Faith in God stronger than our fears.

A LESSON FOR LIFE

Palissy, the famous French inventor of enameled pottery, was thrown into prison because he was a Protestant. The king of France visited him, and expressed regret at being forced to leave him in his enemies' hands. "Forced, sire", exclaimed Palissy, "this is not to speak like a king ; but they who force you cannot force me. I can die." Those whom no power can force to do wrong are true kings and queens, however lowly their lot.

Prove from Scripture—That we are safe in God's keeping.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 97 (Supplemental Lesson) ; 297 ; 320 ; 100 (Ps. Sel.) ; 80 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY) ; 293.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why was Daniel cast into the den of lions ?

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2. How was he delivered ?

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