

Lesson XIII.

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

September 23, 1917

Daniel 6:10-23. Study Daniel, ch. 6. Scripture Memory Verses.

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

10¹ Now when Dan'el knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; ² and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jeru'salem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

11 Then these men assembled ³, and found Dan'el ⁴ praying and making supplication before his God.

12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's ⁵ decree; Hast thou not signed ⁶ a decree, that every man that shall ⁷ ask a *petition* of any God or man within thirty days, save ⁸ 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 Per'sians, which altereth not.

13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Dan'el, which is of the children of the captivity of Ju'dah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the ⁹ 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 ¹⁰ with himself, and set his heart on Dan'el to deliver him; and he laboured till the going down of the sun to ¹¹ deliver him.

15 Then these men assembled ¹² unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that ¹³ the law of the Medes and Per'sians ¹⁴ is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

16 Then the king commanded, and they brought,

Revised Version—1 And when; ² (now his windows were open in his chamber toward Jerusalem;) and he; ³ together; ⁴ making petition and supplication; ⁵ interdict; ⁶ an interdict; ⁷ make petition unto any god; ⁸ unto; ⁹ Omit with himself; ¹⁰ rescue; ¹¹ it is a law; ¹² that no interdict; ¹³ nothing might be; ¹⁴ music; ¹⁵ fled; ¹⁶ near unto the den to Daniel; ¹⁷ Omit three words; ¹⁸ and they; ¹⁹ Omit for him; ²⁰ had trusted.

LESSON PLAN

I. Daniel's Devotion, 10-15.

II. Daniel's Danger, 16-18.

III. Daniel's Deliverance, 19-23.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)

M.—Daniel in the lions' den, Dan. 6: 1-9. T.—Daniel in the lions' den, Dan. 6: 10-17. W.—Daniel in the lions' den, Dan. 6: 18-28. Th.—Preserved by God, Ps. 37: 23-37. F.—Peter's deliverance, Acts 12: 1-11. S.—"The Lord stood with me," 2 Tim. 4: 7-18. S.—Trust in the Lord, Ps. 34: 1-10.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—The date is quite uncertain. It was some time later than B.C. 538; Babylon.

Connecting Links—The fourth chapter of Daniel tells how Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, interpreted by Daniel as forecasting a great humiliation which was to befall the king, which was to take the form of seven years' insanity. A year after this prediction, it was suddenly fulfilled. At the end of seven years, the king recovered his reason and issued a proclamation in which he sets forth the goodness and power of the God of Israel. In the fifth chapter Belshazzar is ruling Babylon. While he and his court are feasting a man's hand appears writing upon

Dan'el, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Dan'el, 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 ¹⁸ the purpose might not be changed concerning Dan'el.

18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting; neither were instruments of ¹⁹ music brought before him; and his sleep ²⁰ 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 ²¹ to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice ²² unto Dan'el; and the king spake and said to Dan'el, O Dan'el, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

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

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, ²³ that they have not hurt me; forasmuch as before him my innocence was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

23 Then was the king exceeding glad ²⁴ for him, and commanded that they should take Dan'el up out of the den. So Dan'el was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he ²⁵ believed in his God.

Primary Catechism—Ques. 47. What happened on the third day after Jesus died and was buried? A. On the third day Jesus rose from the dead.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 39-60.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: Memory Hymn—Primary, 17; Junior, 96 (Ps. Sel.), 272, 251, 404, 263.

Special Scripture Reading—Gal. 5: 14-26, given also in Departmental Graded Teacher's Quarterlies. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Hymn for Opening Worship—Hymn 579, Book of Praise; given also in Departmental Graded Quarterlies.

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 878, Daniel in the Lions' Den (Riviere). For Question on Missions, H. M. 920, Rev. R. G. Scott, M.D., Wakaw Hospital. (Slides are obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, 96 Queen St. East, Toronto.)

the wall. Daniel is called to interpret the writing, which is to the effect that the days of the king's rule are numbered. The same night Belshazzar is killed, and "Darius the Mede" received the kingdom. Darius reorganized the kingdom, under a hundred and twenty satraps, over whom he placed three presidents, of whom Daniel was chief.

I. Daniel's Devotion, 10-15.

V. 10. *The writing*; referred to in vs. 7-9. *Was signed*; by the king. *His windows being open*; either they were unlatticed or the lattice could be moved. *Chamber*; properly the upper chamber or roof-chamber, an apartment "raised above the flat roof of a house at one corner, or upon a tower-like annex to