

Lesson XIII.

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

September 23, 1917

Daniel 6 : 10-23. Study Daniel, ch. 6. *Scripture Memory Verses, Eph. 6 : 1-4.

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

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10 Now when Dan'iel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house ; 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, and found Dan'iel 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 Per'sians, 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, 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.

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

16 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 own signet, and with the signet of his lords : that the purpose might not be changed concerning Dan'iel.

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 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

At the time of the lesson Darius was king in Babylon, and had set Daniel over all the great men of the kingdom, which made them very angry. They did not like to have Daniel set over them, and they planned to have him put out of the way. They made a plot against Daniel. The only fault they could find in him was that he prayed to the true God. So all these great men went to the king and asked him to make a law that whoever prayed to any god or man for thirty days, except to the king himself, should be cast into a den of lions.

The king did not know about the plot

against Daniel, so he signed the law and so it could not be changed. Daniel's enemies felt sure he would continue to pray to his God in heaven, and they were so glad to think that he would then be cast into the den of lions and be killed by the fierce beasts. Did that law stop Daniel from praying to his God ? No, indeed ! Even after he knew that the king had signed this law, he knelt in his house every day at an open window facing toward his old home, and there he prayed three times a day and gave thanks to God, as he had always done.

His enemies went and told the king that

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