

prayer and meditation. *Toward Jerusalem*; in accordance with his feelings of patriotism and religion. Jerusalem was the peculiar dwelling-place of God on earth. It was also in accordance with Scripture (1 Kings 8: 46-49). *He knelt*; an attitude of humble devotion. *Three times a day*. See Ps. 55: 17. *And prayed and gave thanks*. Petition and thanksgiving are elements of all true prayer. *As he did aforetime*. He acted in his accustomed manner. To have done otherwise would have shown fear and been a surrender of principle.

### II. Accused Before the King, 11-13.

V. 11. *Then these men*; the presidents and princes of v. 4. *Assembled*. The word means "to run together with tumult," showing their eagerness to find Daniel at his devotions. *And found Daniel*. They went searching for evidence. His devotions, therefore, could not have been so public as some have imagined. He made no parade.

V. 12. *Then they came near . . . decree*. They lost no time in presenting their proofs to the king, and in reminding him of the law. *Decree*. The word literally means "binding"; then anything that binds, prohibits; then an interdict, a law. *Save of thee, O King*. The Persian kings claimed for themselves divine honours. It was thus easy for the conspirators to hide their real motives under the veil of honouring this divine claim. *Cast into the den of lions*; into a pit or underground cave where lions were kept, probably "to be turned out for the chase when the king wished."—(*Geikie*.) *The thing is true*. He stands ready to carry out his own law whatever the consequences. He did not then suspect that Daniel was involved.

V. 13. *Then answered they . . . the king*. They feel sure now of their victim; and at once announce his offence. *That Daniel*. They try to make his conduct appear in the worst light possible by referring to him as the captive Jew. *Regardeth not thee*; pays no attention to thine authority, but presents his petitions to his God.

### III. In the Den of Lions, 14-17.

Vs. 14, 15. *Then the king . . . sore displeased*; for having so hastily and foolishly signed a decree that must be followed by

such serious consequences. "And he laboured . . . to deliver him; sought to find some way of rescuing him from the penalty of the law. Then these men assembled; to prevent the king from carrying out his purpose of saving Daniel. (For the meaning of "assembled" see notes on v. 11.) *Know, O king*. They take their stand upon the unalterable character of the law. They have the advantage of the king and they use it without mercy.

V. 16. *Then the king commanded*. He yields to the pressure of the princes. *Now the king spake*; as they were about to throw Daniel to the lions. *Thy God . . . will deliver thee*. The king was not ignorant of the power of Daniel's God; but he spake better than he knew. *Whom thou servest continually*; at all times and under all circumstances.

V. 17. *And a stone . . . upon the mouth of the den*; at the door or entrance. It was usual to close up sepulchres in the same way. (John 11: 38). *The king sealed it*. He affixed his seal to the stone by means of clay or wax. The princes did the same. *That nothing might be changed concerning Daniel*. Rev. Ver.; so that neither of "the parties could interfere to aid or injure Daniel without it being known."

### IV. Delivered, 18-28.

Vs. 18-20. *Went to his palace*. Anxiety and remorse deprived him of all desire for either food or pleasure. *Then the king arose*; in anxious haste. *He cried with a lamentable voice*; literally, "a voice of grief." *Is thy God able to deliver thee?* His feelings are divided between hope and fear. *Whom thou servest continually*. See note on v. 16.

Vs. 21-23. *O king, live forever*; a common mode of addressing a king. Compare "Long live the king!" *My God has sent his angel*; no doubt the "Angel of the Covenant" who so often appeared in the Old Testament, the very Son of God. *Innocency was found in me*. His conscience was clear in disobeying the unjust law. *And also before thee*. He had been truly loyal to the king. *Then was the king exceeding glad*; that Daniel was unharmed. *Because he had trusted in his God*. True faith is never disappointed.