

Lesson II.

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

October 8, 1905

Daniel 6 : 10-23. Study the chapter. Commit to memory vs. 21-23.

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

10 ¹ Now when Dan'iel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house ; ² and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jeru'salem, ³ 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, ⁴ 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 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 Persians, 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 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'iel to deliver him : and he laboured till the going down of the sun to ¹¹ deliver him.

15 Then these men assembled ⁴ unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that ¹² the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no ⁶ 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 ; ³ and ; ⁴ together ; ⁵ making petition and supplication ; ⁶ interdict ; ⁷ an interdict ; ⁸ make petition unto any god ; ⁹ unto ; ¹⁰ Omit with himself ; ¹¹ rescue ; ¹² it is a law of the Medes and Persians, that ; ¹³ nothing might be changed ; ¹⁴ fled ; ¹⁵ near unto the den to Daniel ; ¹⁶ Omit unto Daniel ; and ; ¹⁷ and they ; ¹⁸ Omit for him ; ¹⁹ had trusted.

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 ¹³ 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 ¹⁴ 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 ¹⁵ to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice ¹⁶ unto Dan'iel : 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, ¹⁷ 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 ¹⁸ 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 ¹⁹ believed in his God.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

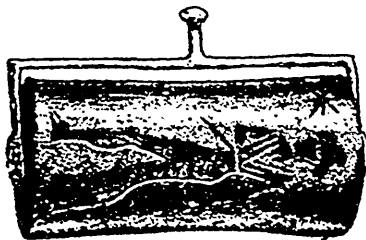
Time and Place—Shortly after 538 B.C.; one of the three capitals of the Persian empire, among which were Babylon and Shushan, ch. 8 : 2.

Connection—The army of Cyrus (see Lesson I.) having conquered Babylon, Darius the Mede (see ch. 5 : 31), perhaps a colleague of Cyrus, became its ruler. Daniel (v. 3) was given the first place under him in the kingdom. This made the other officers of the king jealous, and they laid a plot to have Daniel cast into a den of lions (vs. 6, 7). The Lesson tells the outcome.

I. ACCUSED.—10-13. Daniel knew that the writing was signed; the decree of the king that if any one, for thirty days, should ask any favor of God or man, save of himself, he should be cast into a den of lions, vs. 7-9. His windows being open; in a room on the top of the flat roof of his house. Toward Jerusalem; where the temple was. Every true Israelite loved this house because it was God's dwelling-place. The Jews still turn toward Jerusalem in worship. Three times a day . . . prayed; like the psalmist (Ps. 55 : 17), morning and evening, the times of daily sacrifice in the temple, and at noon. As . . . aforetime; no mere flaunting of his religion, but a quiet continuance of his usual custom. These men (see Connection) . . . found Daniel. Envy and hatred sharpened their eyes. Hast thou not signed a decree . . . O king ? These mean spies laid a trap for the king, as well as for Daniel. The law of the Medes and Persians. See Lesson I. Among these peoples a royal decree or promise could not be changed. That Daniel, etc.; against

whom they could prove no wrong-doing, v. 4. Of the children of the captivity; those who had been taken captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, ch. 1 : 1-3.

II. SENTENCED.—14, 15. Sore displeased with



Babylonian Signet

himself; ashamed to have been trapped into such a cruel and unjust scheme. Laboured . . . to deliver him; tried every plan he could think of. But he took pains at the wrong time. Know, O king, etc. For the tragic turning of the tables on these base plotters, see v. 24.

16, 17. Then the king commanded; proving himself a slave rather than a sovereign, as all do who yield to sin (see John 8 : 34). Daniel . . . into the den of lions. The den was probably shaped like a cistern. Stone . . . laid . . . sealed. Probably a bar was fixed across the stone, fastened at each side of the doorway by thongs. The knotting of these