



Week 9: **Daniel 6:21-22a (NIV)** “ **Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions.”**

Our story is about a man named Daniel, and how God protected Daniel in a den of scary lions.

We are introduced to Daniel when King Nebuchadnezzar defeats the Israelites in a battle. Nebuchadnezzar takes some Israelites back to Babylon with him, and one of these is Daniel. It is Nebuchadnezzar’s plan to teach the young Israelites the Babylon ways. BUT God’s plan is to use Daniel to prove the power of the One God to the Babylonians instead.

Daniel works hard and gives good advice to the king. Nebuchadnezzar orders his people to respect Daniel and Daniel’s God. But, as so often seems to happen, things change when there is a new king. The new king is named Darius. King Darius listens to a group of men who are jealous of Daniel. The men convince Darius to make a law, a decree, that for the next 30 days, no one could worship any God but King Darius. Any one who worshipped another God would be fed to the lions. But Daniel could not follow this decree. Three times each day, Daniel would face his window toward Jerusalem, kneel down, and pray to the One God.

The jealous men watch Daniel pray to God. Then they report Daniel to King Darius. They tell the King that Daniel is still praying to his God. Three times a day! The King orders that Daniel be thrown into the lion pit.

All night Daniel is alone with the wild lions. First thing in the morning, King Darius goes to see what has happened to Daniel. He calls down into the pit. “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?” Daniel answers, “May the king live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me.” Darius orders Daniel to be lifted out of the den of lions, and Daniel isn’t hurt at all.

Now King Darius sees the power of God. He makes a new decree that all his people should reverence the God of Daniel.

Daniel & the Lions Den - Daniel 6:22

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