

CAN OUR GOD DELIVER?

Daniel 6:1-28

Daniel 6:16 (NKJV) - So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you."

Daniel 6:16 (ESV) - Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!"

The child of God who is living under the Lordship of Christ according to the will of God Is invincible until God says, "Your work is through".

1. The Plot (6:1-9)

- LET'S USE DANIEL'S RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS TO TRAP HIM! - THEY PLOTTED.

2. The Prayer (6:10)

2 Chronicles 6:36-39 (NKJV)

- ³⁶ "When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to a land far or near;
- ³⁷ yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, and have committed wickedness';
- ³⁸ and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been carried captive, and pray toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and toward the temple which I have built for Your name:
- ³⁹ then hear from heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned against You.

Has anyone walked in on you praying?

3. The <u>Punishment</u> (6:16)

4. The Protection (Protection) of Daniel (6:21-24)

Bryan Chapell: We must stand for the Lord though it changes nothing and costs us everything!

C. H. Spurgeon once said that it was a good thing the lions didn't try to eat Daniel. They never would have enjoyed him, because he was 50 percent grit and 50 percent backbone.^a

Charles Stanley was going through difficult family times years ago and shared his struggle with a parishioner who listened quietly. After Stanley finished explaining his problems, she pointed to a picture on her living room wall – a picture of Daniel in the den of lions. She said, "Notice how even though the lions are all around Daniel, he never once looks at the lions, but keeps his focus on God!" How many of us keep looking at the lions instead of looking to God when surrounded by lions?

Daniel sat on the floor, his back against the wall and two cubs came up to him playfully, allowing him to rub their ears and they eventually laid down beside him. Their mother came over and laid down next to him providing Daniel with warmth for the chilly night..." (Donald K. Campbell, *Daniel The Decoder Of Dreams*)

5. The Proclamation (6:25-28)

There is a law of compensation that says, "Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him" (Prov. 26:27, NKIV). For example, Pharaoh ordered the Hebrew male babies destroyed in Egypt, and at Passover, all the Egyptian firstborn died. He commanded the newborn Jewish babies to be drowned in the Nile River, and his own army was drowned in the Red Sea (Ex. 14-15). Haman tried to destroy the Jewish nation and ended up being hanged on the gallows he had made for Mordecai (Est. 7:9-10; 9:25). Even if sinners aren't judged in this present life, they will be judged after they die (Heb. 9:27), and the judgment will be just. It seems cruel to us that the families were destroyed along with the conspirators, but that was an official Persian law and the conspirators knew it. Jewish law prohibited punishing the children for the sins of the fathers (Deut. 24:16; Ezek. 18:20), but Eastern despots took a different view. They didn't want any remaining member of a traitor's family to conspire to kill the ruler who ordered the father's execution. It was much easier to bury corpses than to keep an eye on potential assassins, and besides, the example put fear into the hearts of potential troublemakers.^b

CONCLUSION: Moving to Christ: Read Psalm 57:4-6 (NKJV)

In the same way that Daniel was put into a pit, sealed with a stone, left to die, Jesus Christ was placed in a tomb, sealed with a stone, because he did die. The enemies of Jesus thought they had him, when, on the third day, Jesus walked out of that tomb arisen indeed. [see Matthew 27:66]

^a David Jeremiah and Carole C. Carlson, *The Handwriting on the Wall* (Dallas: Word Pub., 1992), 125.

^b Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary – The Prophets, (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 2002), 280.