

CLASS: SS2
SUBJECT: CRS
TOPIC: FAITH AND POWER OF GOD
WEEK: 5
TERM: THIRD

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A DECREE TO WORSHIP THE KING (Daniel 6:1-9)

Daniel was one of the Jewish captives taken to Babylon. While in Babylon, his faithfulness, honesty and peculiar divine endowment made him to progress in that foreign land.

King Darius had divided his kingdom into **one hundred and twenty provinces** for administrative convenience. Each of these provinces was headed by a **Satrap** (i.e. a governor). He further appointed three presidents to oversee these Satraps. Daniel happened to be one of the three presidents. He distinguished himself and became popular in the kingdom and the most favoured of the three presidents because he was filled with an excellent spirit. The king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. This move by the king attracted jealousy and hatred against Daniel from the other presidents and Satraps hence they sought ways of bringing him into disrepute before the king, so as to bring his downfall. When they could not find grounds to bring about his fall, they decided to use his religion to establish an offence against him before the king because they knew well that Daniel loved God and served Him continually.

The conspirators (the other two presidents and the officers in the land) went to the king, persuading him to establish a law which would cause an offence to pray to any other god or man other than the king, for a period of thirty days. The penalty for such offence was to cast the person into the Den of lions. They further requested the king to make the law, not subject to change, in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians.

Daniel disregarded the law and prayed in his house three times a day, as was his practice, giving thanks to the Almighty God.

DANIEL EXPRESSES HIS FAITH IN GOD (Daniel 6:10-15)

After learning that the document had been signed by the king, Daniel went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber opened towards Jerusalem and prayed to God **three times every day**. The men who wanted to implicate him came and found Daniel praying to his God and immediately reported him to the king. They further reminded the king that his law concerning worship was not subject to change, implying that the punishment must be strictly inflicted on Daniel.

DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN (Daniel 6:11-18)

When king Darius heard of Daniel's violation of his decree on worship, he was greatly worried. He was reluctant to inflict the harsh punishment of the law on Daniel. He tried to free him but following the persuasion of the other officers of the land, especially those who hated Daniel, that the law of **Medes and Persians was unchangeable** and must be applied accordingly, the king ordered that Daniel be cast into the den of lions.

However, the king said to Daniel, *"May your God whom you serve continually deliver you"*. The king having acted against his wish went back home, fasted and was without sleep due to his unhappiness over what had happened to Daniel.

THE POWER OF GOD MANIFESTED (Daniel 6:19-24)

The next day, as early as possible, the king hurried to the Den of lions. He wanted to see whether Daniel was dead or alive. When he came near the Den, he cried with a loud voice *"Daniel, servant of the Living God, has your God whom you serve continually been able to deliver you from the lion?"* Daniel greeted the king and informed him that the Lord sent His Angel to close the mouth of the lions because he was blameless before God and before the king. The king was very happy when he found out that Daniel was alive, he immediately ordered that he be brought out of the den. When he was brought out, he was found unhurt. The king being convinced that it was a plot against Daniel, immediately ordered that the accusers of Daniel be cast into the den of lions with their wives and children. The lions broke their bones into pieces before they reached the bottom of the den.

EFFECTS OF DANIEL'S FAITH (Daniel 6:19-24)

Following Daniel's deliverance by God, king Darius promulgated a decree directing everybody in his kingdom to worship the God of Daniel as the Living God who rescues, works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, whose kingdom shall never be destroyed and whose dominion shall be to the end. Daniel's popularity and greatness increased throughout the reign of king Darius and of Cyrus, the Persian king.

Qualities of Daniel (Daniel 1:3-8; 6:3-5; 10:16; 6:22-23)

The qualities of Daniel cannot be overlooked. The following are some of the qualities seen in Daniel:

1. Daniel was from a royal family.
2. He was endowed with knowledge and understanding.
3. He was learned and competent in many things.
4. He had an excellent spirit. This was the reason he was able to interpret the king's dream. (Daniel 5:12, 6:3)
5. He was faithful and no error was found in him. This was his enemies' testimony about him. (Daniel 6:4-5)
6. He was an upright man and blameless in the things of God.
7. He had an absolute and unshakable faith and trust in God. (Daniel 6:23)
8. He was a devout worshipper of God.
9. He was uncompromising.

ASSIGNMENT

Find out from the Bible another person that was wrongly accused and suffered because of his faith in God.