



Potomac Hills

Presbyterian Church, PCA



By Grace Alone ~ Through Faith Alone ~ In Christ Alone

The Reverend Dr. David V. Silvernail, Jr.
Daniel 6:1-28

October 18, 2020
 English Standard Version

“Daniel and the Lion’s Den”

This is the 7th sermon in a topical series entitled,
Misused Stories of the Bible

INTRODUCTION: *Dare to be a* _____

In chapter one — *“I remember you.”*

In chapter two — *“I will rescue you.”*

In chapter three — *“I am with you.”*

In chapter four — *“I exalt the humble.”*

In chapter five — *“I humble the exalted.”*

v. 1-5: THE _____ LIFE OF DANIEL ¹

“It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; ² and over them three presidents, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. ³ Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other presidents and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ Then the presidents and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. ⁵ Then these men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.”

2 Timothy 3:12, *“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”*

1 Peter 4:12-13, *“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed.”*

v. 6-9, 12-16: THE _____ LIFE OF DANIEL

*⁶ Then these presidents and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, “O King Darius, live forever! ⁷ All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸ Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.” ⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction. ... ¹² Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, “O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” The king answered and said, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” ¹³ Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.” ¹⁴ Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. ¹⁵ Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.” ¹⁶ 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!”***

1 The Exposition of the text is adapted from my sermon, “Daniel in the Lion’s Den” preached here at Potomac Hills on 3/22/09. **And the books,** Daniel: Reformed Expository Commentary by Dr. Ian Duguid, pages 90-104; The Preacher’s Commentary: Daniel by Dr. Sinclair Ferguson, pages 115-131; Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary – Exalting Jesus in Daniel by Dr. Daniel Akin, pages 68-78; ESV Study Bible, Daniel study notes by Dr. Duguid and Dr. Paul Wegner. The outline is adapted from “Daniel” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary by Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost, pages 1347-1349. **And the sermons,** *“The Lions of God”* by Dr. Tim Keller, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York, NY, 5/21/20, The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive, Logos Bible Software 8.17; *“Daniel in the Lion’s Den”* by Dr. J. Ligon Duncan, III, Chancellor, Reformed Theological Seminary, preached when Senior Minister at First Presbyterian Church (PCA), Jackson, MS, 1/18/98, www.fpcjackson.org; and *“The Song of a Broom”* by Dr. Bryan Chapell, PCA Stated Clerk Pro Tem and Pastor Emeritus, Grace Presbyterian Church, Peoria, IL, www.preachingtoday.com.

v. 10-11: THE _____ LIFE OF DANIEL ²

¹⁰ When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. ¹¹ Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.”

1 Peter 1:6-7, “In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

v. 17-28: A _____ LIFE FOR DARIUS

¹⁷ And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king **sealed** it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him. ¹⁹ Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰ As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, **“O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”** ²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! ²² My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before Him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.” ²³ Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴ And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces. ²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: “Peace be multiplied to you. ²⁶ **I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for He is the living God, enduring forever; His kingdom shall never be destroyed, and His dominion shall be to the end. ²⁷ He delivers and rescues; He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, He who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.**” ²⁸ So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.”

² A small part of this section is adapted from a good sermon with a terrible title, “How to Tame Lions” by Dr. Ray Pritchard, Keep Believing Ministries, preached when Pastor of Calvary Memorial Church, Oak Park, IL, 1/23/20, www.keepbelieving.com.

CONCLUSION: *Foreshadowing of a Finished Work* ³

Daniel 6:17, “*And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.*”

Matthew 27:65-66, “*Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.”* ⁶⁶ *So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.*”

Like Daniel was **sealed** in the Lion's den, so Christ was **sealed** in the tomb, and this was the ruler's way to **seal** the fate of these servants of God. In both cases, that **sealing** led to greater glory for God, when He brought **Daniel** up out of the den and He raised Christ up out of the tomb.

Like Daniel, Jesus was falsely accused by His enemies, **Mark 14:55**, “*Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none.*”

Like Daniel, Jesus was brought before a ruler, Pontius Pilate, who unsuccessfully sought to deliver Him before handing Him over to a violent death.

Like Daniel, Jesus was condemned to die, and His body placed in a **sealed** pit so that His situation couldn't be changed by human intervention.

Psalms 22:19, 21, “*But You, O LORD, do not be far off! O You my help, come quickly to my aid! ...* ²¹ *Save me from the mouth of the lion!*”

As Daniel was brought out of a den that had been **sealed** by those in power, so was the Lord Jesus Christ raised from a tomb which had been **sealed** by those in power.

When Daniel came forth from the lions' den, he came out alone. But when Jesus came forth from the tomb, He came out as **the head of a mighty company of people** who've been redeemed from the pit through His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead.

³ A small part of this section is adapted from Preaching Christ from Daniel: Foundations for Expository Sermons by Dr. Sidney Greidanus, pages 173–200.