



# CAPITOL COMMISSION<sup>®</sup>

## Conquering Faith

APRIL 17-19, 2024

Pastor David Andersen / 804-683-2285 / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

**Daniel 6:16-23** *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.” 17) Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed. 18) Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him. 19) Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. 20) And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel, “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, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.” 23) Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.* (NKJV)

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*BECAUSE YOU HAVE MADE THE LORD, WHO IS MY REFUGE, EVEN THE MOST HIGH, YOUR DWELLING PLACE, NO EVIL SHALL BEFALL YOU, NOR SHALL ANY PLAGUE COME NEAR YOUR DWELLING; FOR HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU, TO KEEP YOU IN ALL YOUR WAYS. IN THEIR HANDS THEY SHALL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU DASH YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE. YOU SHALL TREAD UPON THE LION AND THE COBRA, THE YOUNG LION AND THE SERPENT YOU SHALL TRAMPLE UNDERFOOT. PSALM 91:9-13*

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Does the king do exactly the opposite of what he wants to do concerning Daniel? Is the law stronger than the king? Is the king demonstrating faith in Daniel’s God with his final words to him before his sentence is sealed? Are the seals designed to keep the king from rescuing Daniel, or the others from trying to kill him if the lions don’t? Is King Darius afraid that he may be losing the only man he can trust? In the few words that Daniel speaks, what is he most concerned about? What was the final reason given why Daniel was perfectly protected?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- APRIL 24-26: DANIEL 6:24-28 *DECEITFUL ENEMIES EXECUTED AND DANIEL’S GOD EXALTED*
- MAY 1-3: DANIEL 7:1-8 *THE WORLD EMPIRES PREDICTED*

Though the contrast could not have been more stark between King Nebuchadnezzar who angrily heated his furnace seven times hotter and threw his faithful public servants in it because they would not bow down to his golden image and King Darius who had been tricked into condemning his faithful president, Daniel, whom he had tried all day to rescue, yet he still condemned him to a terrorizing execution to be eaten alive by hungry lions. Yet God was teaching His people that even though the highest powers may be in sympathy with you, and even one of your own people may gain the highest office the land with him, yet their trust could only be in the Lord.

### BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – 106 CARTER ST (NORTH OF THE RIVER)

THURSDAY @ 8:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – RICHMOND – SHONEY’S AT HULL & COURTHOUSE & NOON – LYNCHBURG – PANERA BREAD, 3901 OLD FOREST RD.

FRIDAY @ 8:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY – SUFFOLK – VILLAGE INN, 6116 COLLEGE DRIVE, NEAR HAMPTON ROADS CROSSING

# Virginia

## Conquering Faith

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*BUT THE SALVATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS FROM THE LORD; HE IS THEIR STRENGTH IN THE TIME OF TROUBLE. AND THE LORD SHALL HELP THEM AND DELIVER THEM; HE SHALL DELIVER THEM FROM THE WICKED, AND SAVE THEM, BECAUSE THEY TRUST IN HIM. PSALM 37:39-40*

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### I. FAILURE RATIONALIZED DANIEL 6:16-18

Knowing that he had been tricked into signing legislation to act as God and become the only one who received prayers for thirty days in order to condemn godly Daniel, and knowing that Daniel was innocent of all the false accusations of his enemies, and that Daniel had been faithful and true in all his responsibilities, and so much so that he desired to promote him over the whole realm, King Darius sinned against his own conscience when he embraced injustice, condemned Daniel and ordered his execution in the lions' den. He had finally yielded to the tyranny of the wicked murders who had reminded him continually, "that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed" (Dan. 6:15). Due to Daniel's witness, the king does begin to express faith in Daniel's God in his final words to him before he sealed the stone to finalize the execution, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you." The stone was sealed by both the king and the wicked conspirators that the king might not rescue him and the murders might not kill him if the lions failed to eat him. Appropriately failing to quiet his guilty conscience or rationalize his injustice, all night long he could not enjoy food, music or sleep while Daniel's life was in jeopardy.

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*BUT THE WICKED ARE LIKE THE TROUBLED SEA, WHEN IT CANNOT REST, WHOSE WATERS CAST UP MIRE AND DIRT. "THERE IS NO PEACE," SAYS MY GOD, "FOR THE WICKED." ISAIAH 57:20-21*

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### II. FEARING REGRET

### DANIEL 6:19-20

As early as possible the king escaped the palace and went "in haste to the den of lions." Knowing that he had turned on the only leadership qualified man he could trust, and fearing for himself and his empire, he cries out before he gets there, literally in a tone of anguish, echoing the only hope in his heart, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" In the king's mind, he saw Daniel's God, whom he now calls "the living God," as his only hope!

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*WHO THROUGH FAITH SUBDUED KINGDOMS, WORKED RIGHTEOUSNESS, OBTAINED PROMISES, STOPPED THE MOUTHS OF LIONS, QUENCHED THE VIOLENCE OF FIRE, ESCAPED THE EDGE OF THE SWORD, OUT OF WEAKNESS WERE MADE STRONG, BECAME VALIANT IN BATTLE, TURNED TO FLIGHT THE ARMIES OF ALIENS. WOMEN RECEIVED THEIR DEAD RAISED TO LIFE AGAIN. OTHERS WERE TORTURED, NOT ACCEPTING DELIVERANCE, THAT THEY MIGHT OBTAIN A BETTER RESURRECTION.*

HEBREWS 11:33-35

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### III. FAITH REWARDED

### DANIEL 6:21-23

Daniel, in faith, has already forgiven and now blesses his king, "O king, live forever!" These are the only words of Daniel so they are very weighty. "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they have not hurt me," this is probably the same angel (Dan. 3:28) who had protected Daniel's friends in the fiery furnace. If so, Daniel enjoyed the very presence of "the Son of God" (3:25), whose grave stone was also sealed until He came bursting forth in His resurrection! He is the object of true faith because He alone paid the price of our sin upon the cross, so that the wrath of God against our sin was completely satisfied in Him as we receive Him as our Lord and Savior. Daniel's other words overcame the false accusations. Like his friends in the furnace, "no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God." His faith had overcome!

#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you trust the Lord and His Word above all the other power sources around you?
- 2) Are you willing to sin against your conscience when you think that the circumstances demand it?
- 3) Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ and his finished work upon the cross and received Him as your Lord?