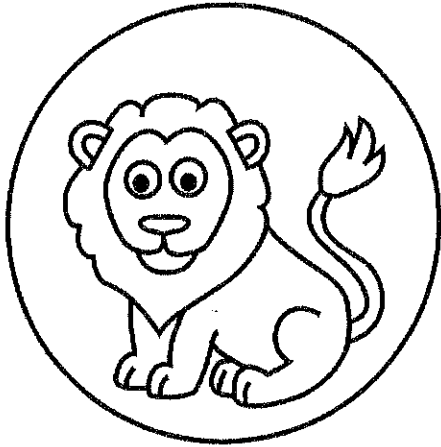


## December 18: Daniel and the Lion



God allowed Jerusalem to be captured by the king of Babylon. Daniel and his three companions were taken to the palace for training. The king found them to be wise and kept them at his court. Later Daniel was elevated to a high office by King Darius, which made others jealous. Daniel's enemies tricked the king into ordering everyone not to worship any other god except for the king for 30 days, but Daniel did what was right and kept worshipping and praying to God instead. Due to the king's law, Daniel was thrown into a den of lions to be killed. But God protected Daniel from the lions, and he was not harmed.



"Daniel in the Lions' Den", Peter Paul Rubens, c. 1615



**Daniel 6:7-23.** <sup>7</sup> All the presidents of the kingdom, the deputies and the local governors, the counselors and the governors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a strong decree, that whoever asks a petition of any god or man for thirty days, except of you, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. <sup>8</sup> Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which doesn't alter. <sup>9</sup> Therefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

<sup>10</sup> When Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house (now his windows were open in his room toward Jerusalem) and he knelt on his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did before. <sup>11</sup> Then these men assembled together, and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God. <sup>12</sup> Then they came near, and spoke before the king concerning the king's decree: "Haven't you signed a decree that every man who makes a 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, "This thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which doesn't alter."

<sup>13</sup> Then they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is of the children of the captivity of Judah, doesn't respect you, O king, nor the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day." <sup>14</sup> Then the king, when he heard these words, was very displeased, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored until the going down of the sun to rescue him. <sup>15</sup> Then these men assembled together to the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians, that no decree nor statute which the king establishes may be changed."

<sup>16</sup> Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Your God whom you serve continually, he will deliver you."

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting. No musical instruments were brought before him; and his sleep fled from him. <sup>19</sup> Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste to the den of lions. <sup>20</sup> When he came near to the den to Daniel, he cried with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, is your God, whom you serve continually, able to deliver you from the lions?"

<sup>21</sup> Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever!

<sup>22</sup> My God has sent his angel, and has shut the lions' mouths, and they have not hurt me; because as before him innocence was found in me; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm." <sup>23</sup> Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that they should take Daniel 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.