

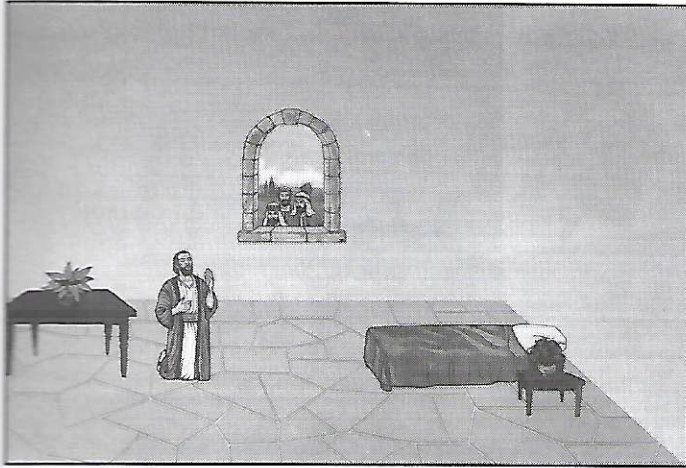
Daniel in the Lions' Den

MEMORY VERSE: "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them." Psalms 34:7

SCRIPTURES: Daniel 6

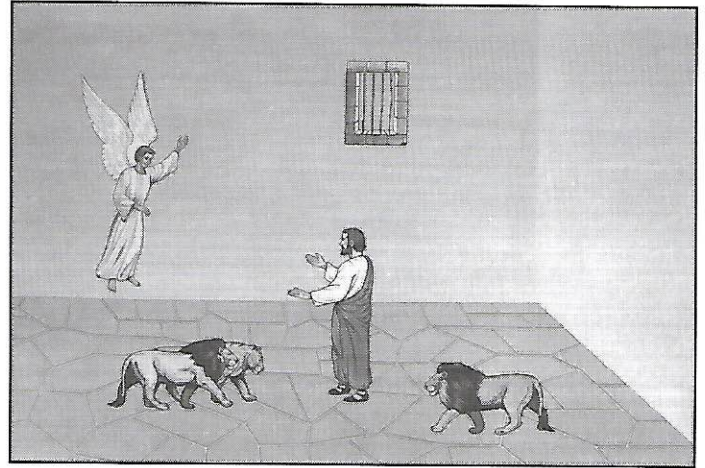
AIM: To teach that those who are loyal to God will receive His special care.

THE BIBLE IN LIVING SOUND: Volume 4, Tape 36, Story 241



First show scene with king, 42, crown 304, and men talking to him.

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King Darius, the new ruler of the mighty Medes and Persians, chose one hundred twenty governors to help him rule his kingdom. Each of these governors was ruled by three presidents.

Daniel was one of those presidents. He soon proved to be wiser, braver and more honest than all the other governors and presidents.

"I'm going to make him first president and have him rule over the entire empire," said the king. This made the other presidents and governors very jealous of Daniel. "Let's catch him doing something wrong," said one. "Then we can report him to the king."

"Let's see if he lies, or cheats or steals," said another. "Then we can tell the king." But they couldn't find anything Daniel did that was wrong. He always asked God to show him what to do. He prayed to God three times each day.

"Ah-ha!" said one of the men. "I know how we can trap him. We will complain about his religion."

These other rulers worshiped false gods and did not worship the true God like Daniel did.

So these men went to the king with their plan. "Oh king, live forever," they said. "All the governors and presidents have decided that for thirty days no one should pray to anyone but you. If they do, they shall be thrown in the lions' den."

The king was flattered to think everyone wanted to pray to him. So he agreed to the law and once it was signed, no one could change it.

When Daniel heard about the law, did he quit praying? No! Daniel would never disappoint the God whom he worshiped.

Some people who were afraid of disobeying the king might have prayed secretly, maybe in a closet where no one would see them. But not Daniel. He walked up the stairs to his room, opened the window facing Jerusalem and prayed to God in the morning, at noon, and in the evening.

His enemies watched Daniel pray and hurried to tell the

king. "Oh King Darius, did you, great king, not make a rule that everyone should pray only to you for thirty days?"

"Yes," said the king. "That is right."

"Well, that Daniel who was captured from Judah is not obeying you. He keeps right on praying to his God."

The king, who liked Daniel, realized the trap the men had set for him. What a foolish law he had made! The king tried, but he couldn't change the law. At last he ordered Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den.

"May the God whom you worship deliver you," said the king.

The king returned to the palace feeling very sad. He went to bed without dinner and couldn't sleep all night. Very early the next morning he hurried to the lions' den. He called out in anguish, "Oh Daniel, was your God able to save you?"

The king waited. Then he heard Daniel's voice: "Oh king, live forever. God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths. I am not hurt."

The king was beside himself with joy. God had protected Daniel!

"Servants, get Daniel out right now," the king ordered.

Then the king commanded that those who had plotted to kill Daniel be thrown into the lions' den. God did not save them.

Then the king made a decree to all the people in the kingdom. "Starting today, you must fear the God of Daniel, the true, living God. He delivers His people from harm, and His kingdom shall never end."

Daniel continued to be favored among with the kings and God blessed him.

The king agreed to the law, because those who wanted him to make it appealed to his pride. Pride is a treacherous thing.

Daniel's disciplined life of prayer should be an example for us to follow. We need to be careful not to let the pressures of our schedule cut into our daily prayer life.