

Daniel 6:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

Analysis

The king's hopeful word to Daniel shows both desperation and dawning faith: 'Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.' This statement combines acknowledgment of Daniel's faithful service ('whom thou servest continually') with hope in divine deliverance. Darius doesn't say 'may deliver' but 'will deliver'—expressing either politeness to a doomed man or genuine faith that Daniel's God is powerful. The phrase 'continually' recognizes Daniel's consistent devotion. This contrasts with the king's own failure—he served pride and self-interest by signing the foolish decree.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings rarely expressed confidence in foreign gods, making Darius's statement remarkable. The timing matters—spoken as Daniel descends into the lion's den, this represents either desperate hope or genuine faith. Ancient lion dens were typically pits or caves used for keeping lions for royal hunts. Throwing someone into a den of multiple hungry lions normally meant certain death. Darius's words show he recognizes Daniel's God might accomplish what the king's power couldn't—deliverance from impossible circumstances.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does consistent ('continual') faithfulness create testimony that even unbelievers recognize and respect?
2. What does Darius's statement teach about how our faithful service to God can provoke faith (or at least hope) in observers?

Interlinear Text

וְרָם	וְ	לְדִנִי	אֵל	וְ	לְדִנִי	אֵל	וְרָם	וְ												
Then		Now	the	king	and	said	and	they	brought	and	cast									
H116		H4430		H560				H858		H1841	H7412									
him	into	the	den	H1768	of	lions	H744	spake	Now	the	king	and	spake	Now	the	king	and	said	and	cast
H1358						H6032		H4430		H560	H1841		H1358		H744	H6032	H4430	H560	H1841	H7412
Thy	God	H1768	whom	thou	H607	servest	H6399	H0	continually	H1932	he	will	deliver	H1768	H607	H6399	H0	H8411	H1932	H7804

Additional Cross-References

Job 5:19 (Parallel theme): He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.

Isaiah 43:2 (Parallel theme): When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Daniel 3:28 (Kingdom): Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nege, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

2 Samuel 3:39 (Kingdom): And I am this day weak, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah be too hard for me: the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness.

Daniel 3:17 (Kingdom): If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

Daniel 6:20 (Kingdom): And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

Acts 25:11 (Parallel theme): For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar.

Proverbs 29:25 (Parallel theme): The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Acts 25:9 (Parallel theme): But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me?

Acts 24:27 (Parallel theme): But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.