

# Daniel 6:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

## Analysis

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The king's actions—"arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions"—demonstrate desperate hope for Daniel's survival. The phrase "very early" (Aramaic bishafraya, בִּשְׁפָרָא) suggests dawn's first light, the earliest moment social convention permitted royal activity. "In haste" (behitbehala, בְּהִתְבְּהָלָה) conveys urgency driven by anxiety and desperate hope. Darius rushes to learn Daniel's fate, fearing the worst yet hoping for miraculous deliverance.

The king's early rising and hurrying contrast with his conspirators' likely expectation that he would delay, perhaps indefinitely avoiding confirming his valued servant's death. Instead, Darius rushes to the den, suggesting faith that Daniel's God might accomplish what Persian law could not. His behavior demonstrates the impact of Daniel's consistent faithfulness—even pagan kings recognized that this servant of the living God might receive supernatural protection.

This scene prefigures the resurrection morning when women hurried to Christ's tomb at dawn, fearing death yet hoping for life (Mark 16:2-6). Both accounts involve early morning haste to where death held sway, only to discover divine deliverance accomplishing what seemed impossible. Darius's desperate hope and Daniel's vindication point to believers' confident hope in resurrection—God delivers from the power of death itself, not merely temporary threats.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern royal protocol typically involved elaborate morning rituals and ceremonies before kings attended to business. Darius's abandonment of these formalities to rush to the lions' den at dawn demonstrates both his distress and his hope for divine intervention. Royal dignity gave way to desperate urgency, revealing genuine affection for Daniel and recognition of extraordinary spiritual dimensions to this crisis.

Lions' dens were common execution and imprisonment sites in ancient empires. Natural caves or constructed pits served as holding areas for dangerous animals or prisons for condemned criminals. The overnight period allowed nature to take its expected course—lions would devour prey once hunger overcame initial wariness.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Darius's desperate early morning haste illustrate the human longing for divine intervention when earthly systems have failed?
2. What does the king's hope for Daniel's survival teach about the witness power of consistent faithfulness over time?
3. How does this scene prefigure resurrection morning, and what hope does Christ's victory over death provide for believers facing threats?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיָמָה תִּבְפַּל הַבְּرִigg אַלְכָא בָּאָדָה

Then the king very early arose in the morning in haste

H116

H4430

H8238

H6966

H5053

H927

לְגַת אַלְכָא אַלְכָא אַלְכָא

unto the den of lions and went

H1358

H1768

H744

H236

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 28:1** (Parallel theme): In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

**1 Thessalonians 3:5** (Parallel theme): For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

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