

Daniel 6:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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?

Analysis

The king's sleepless night and early return demonstrate his anxiety: 'Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.' The phrase 'very early' and 'in haste' show he couldn't wait—he spent the night in anguish wondering if Daniel survived. This pagan king's concern for God's servant demonstrates how faithful living creates genuine relationships even with unbelievers. Darius's anxiety parallels the women hurrying to Jesus's tomb (Mark 16:2)—both situations involve sealed places where death seemed certain but divine deliverance occurred.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings typically began days with elaborate morning rituals and audiences. Darius's immediate trip to the lion's den, abandoning normal protocol, shows extraordinary concern. The king's sleepless night (v. 18—no music, no food) demonstrates genuine distress over Daniel's fate. This contrasts with typical royal indifference to subjects' suffering. Darius's emotional investment in Daniel reflects decades of faithful service that transcended mere professional relationship to create genuine regard.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does faithful service create genuine relationships that transcend professional or cultural boundaries?
2. What does Darius's anxiety teach about how our faithfulness under trial affects those who watch, creating concern and investment in the outcome?

Interlinear Text

וְכַמְקָרְבָּהּ הָ	לְגִבָּהּ אֵ	דָּנִיֵּאל	בְּקוֹל ל	עִצְ יִב	זָעַק
And when he came	to the den	O Daniel	voice	with a lamentable	he cried
H7127	H1358	H1841	H7032	H6088	H2200
עֲנֵה	מֶלֶךְ אֵ	וְאָמַר	דָּנִיֵּאל	דָּנִיֵּאל	עֶבֶד
spake	and the king	and said	O Daniel	O Daniel	servant
H6032	H4430	H560	H1841	H1841	H5649
וְהָיָה	אֵלֹהֵי	אֲנִי	כָל	לְיָהּ	בְּתָדִיב אֵ
of the living	God	H1768	H607	whom thou servest	H0
H2417	H426		H6399		H8411
לְשִׁיבּוֹתָהּ	מִן	אֲרִיֹתָא:			
able	to deliver	thee from	the lions		
H3202	H7804	H4481	H744		

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 16:11 (Parallel theme): Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.

Daniel 6:27 (Parallel theme): He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Hebrews 7:25 (References God): Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

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 6:16 (Kingdom): 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.

James 1:25 (Parallel theme): But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Psalms 73:23 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

Jeremiah 32:17 (References God): Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

2 Corinthians 1:10 (Parallel theme): Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

Genesis 18:14 (Parallel theme): Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.