

Daniel 6:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Analysis

The phrase "My God hath sent his angel" reveals Daniel's recognition that supernatural intervention, not natural circumstances, preserved his life. Many Reformed scholars see this as another Christophany—the pre-incarnate Christ (the Angel of the Lord) acting as covenant protector. "Hath shut the lions' mouths" uses language suggesting complete, miraculous restraint—the lions' natural predatory instincts were divinely suppressed.

Daniel attributes this to dual innocence: "forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me" refers to his innocence before God—he maintained covenant faithfulness and righteous living. "And also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt" asserts his innocence of any genuine crime against Darius—his only "offense" was worshiping God.

Theologically, this passage teaches:

1. God sovereignly protects His servants according to His purposes
2. genuine innocence and righteousness matter in God's economy
3. God's miraculous interventions testify to His reality before unbelievers.

Daniel's deliverance prefigures Christ's resurrection—just as God shut the lions' mouths, He closed death's jaws, delivering Christ and all believers from eternal judgment.

Historical Context

After Daniel's arrest, King Darius reluctantly cast him into the lions' den, a common Persian execution method. Archaeological evidence confirms Persian use of large pits containing multiple lions. The sealing of the den's stone entrance with the king's signet (Daniel 6:17) prevented tampering, making Daniel's survival indisputably miraculous.

The subsequent execution of Daniel's accusers by the same lions—who "brake all their bones in pieces" before reaching the den's floor (Daniel 6:24)—proved the lions were naturally dangerous, not tame. This detail answers skeptics while demonstrating divine judgment on those who manipulated justice.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Daniel's testimony that his innocence before both God and human authority led to deliverance challenge your understanding of suffering and vindication?
2. What does God's miraculous intervention for Daniel teach about His sovereignty over nature?

Interlinear Text

לֹא אָרַיוּת אֶפְמַת כְּלָמִידָה
My God hath sent his angel and hath shut mouths

H426 H7972 H4398 H5463 H6433 H744 H3809

חִבְלָה וְנִי
hurt me forasmuch as before him innocence

H2255 H3606 H6903 H1768 H6925 H2136

לֹא סְבּוֹל הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶחָד
was found in me and also before thee O king

H7912 H0 H638 H6925 H4430 H2248 H3809

עֲבָדָת:

have I done

H5648

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:33 (Kingdom): Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

2 Timothy 4:17 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

Acts 12:11 (Parallel theme): And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

Acts 24:16 (References God): And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

Psalms 84:11 (References God): For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Daniel 3:28 (Kingdom): Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, 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.

Micah 7:7 (References God): Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

Psalms 31:14 (References God): But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God.

Numbers 20:16 (Parallel theme): And when we cried unto the LORD, he heard our voice, and sent an angel, and hath brought us forth out of Egypt: and, behold, we are in Kadesh, a city in the uttermost of thy border:

1 Samuel 17:37 (Parallel theme): David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.