Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel was a good and able man. So the king planned to put him in charge of the whole kingdom. But the other leaders and the royal rulers were unhappy and tried to bring charges against Daniel. But they couldn’t find any fault with his work.

Finally these men said, “It is impossible for us to bring charges against Daniel. If we find a reason, it will have to be in connection with the law of his God.”

So the leaders and the royal rulers said to the king, “King Darius, you should give an official order that for the next 30 days, anyone who prays to any god except you will be thrown into the lions’ den. And you should write it down so it can’t be changed.”

So King Darius put the order in writing.

When Daniel found out about this, he did just as he had always done. He went home to his upstairs room, got down on his knees and prayed. He went to his room three times a day to pray.

Some royal officials saw him praying. So they went to the king and said, “Didn’t you sign an official order that for the next 30 days, anyone who prays to any god except you would be thrown into the lions’ den?” The king answered, “The order must be obeyed.” Then they said, “Daniel still prays to his God three times a day.” When the king heard this, he was very upset.

Then the men said, “Your Majesty, remember that no order you give can be changed.” So the king gave the order and Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den. The king returned to his palace. He didn’t eat anything that night. And he couldn’t sleep.

As soon as the sun began to rise, the king hurried to the lions’ den. He called out, “Daniel! Has your God saved you from the lions?” Daniel answered, “My God sent his angel and shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me.” The king was filled with joy and ordered his servants to lift Daniel out of the den.

Then the king gave another order. The men who had said bad things about Daniel were thrown into the lions’ den.