

# Daniel in the Lion's Den

## Reader's Theater Version

CHARACTERS: 16

PROPS: optional

SETTING: Partly in the day of Daniel in the kingdom of Darius, partly as modern day people providing commentary and clarification

RUN TIME: Approximately 10 minutes

SCRIPTURE BASED ON: Daniel 6

FK reading level: 4.4

A: It pleased Darius the King to appoint 120 satraps or administrators to rule throughout the kingdom

B: There were three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel

C: These administrators were made accountable so that the king might not suffer loss.

A: Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom

ADMIN 1: Did you hear? The king is going to promote Daniel over all of us.

ADMIN 2: That's terrible. We must find grounds for charges against Daniel.

ADMIN 3: Maybe something in his conduct of government affairs.

ADMIN 2: Good idea

A: But they were unable to do so.

B: They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy

C: Daniel was neither corrupt nor negligent.

D: What does negligent mean?

C: Careless

B: Or failing to pay attention

A: Negligent can mean not being responsible.

B: You are negligent if you fail to take care of your children.

ADMIN 1: (*unhappy*) I couldn't find any fault in Daniel

ADMIN 2: (*frustrated*) Me either

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ADMIN 4: Me neither.

ADMIN 3: (*seriously discouraged*) We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel

ADMIN 2: (*getting an idea*) unless it has something to do with the law of his God.

ADMIN 4 (*Getting an idea too*): Let's go as a group to the king and say: "O King Darius, live forever!

ADMIN 3: The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that you should issue an edict

ADMIN 4: And enforce the decree

ADMIN 3: That anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be ...

ADMIN 2: Thrown into the lions' den.

ALL ADMINS: (*ad lib what a great, fantastic idea it is, Let's go, etc*)

ADMIN 1: O King Darius, live forever!

ADMIN 2: We royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that you should issue an edict

D: What's an edict?

A: an announcement of a law

B: A formal proclamation of a legally binding law.

C: Usually made by someone in authority rather than a group of people passing a law.

ADMIN 3: And King Darius, we want you to enforce the decree

ADMIN 4: So that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days,

ADMIN 1: Except to you, O king,

ALL ADMINS: (*in unison*): Shall be thrown into the lions' den.

ADMIN 2: Now, O king, issue the decree

ADMIN 1: And put it in writing so that it cannot be altered

ADMIN 3: In accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians,

ADMIN 4: Which cannot be repealed.

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D: What does repealed mean?

A: Taken back.

C: Cancelled officially

B: Like the president can repeal a law so it no longer is in effect.

E: So King Darius put the decree in writing.

F: Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home

E: To his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem.

G: Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed,

F: Giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

DANIEL: Lord, I thank you for all the blessings you have given me.

E: Then these satraps went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

DANIEL: Lord, help me to glory you with me life.

ADMIN 4: Daniel is praying

ADMIN 1: And he's not praying to the king

ADMIN 3: He's breaking a law of the Medes and Persians,

ADMIN 4: Which cannot be repealed.

ALL ADMINS: (*in unison*) Let's tell the king!

E: So the satraps went to King Darius

F: And spoke to him about his royal decree:

ADMIN 1: Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or man except to you, O king, would be thrown into the lions' den?

KING: The decree stands—in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.

ADMIN 2: Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing.

ADMIN 3: He still prays three times a day.

H: When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed;

I: He was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

J: Then the men went as a group to the king and said to him

H: Remember, O king, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.

KING: Very well. Bring Daniel and throw him into the lions' den. *(to Daniel)* May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!

J: A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den

I: The king sealed it with his own signet ring

J: And with the rings of his nobles

H: So that Daniel's situation might not be changed.

KING: I am returning to my palace.

ADMIN 3: Can we get you something to eat?

KING: No.

ADMIN 4: How about some entertainment?

KING: No, I do not want any entertainment.

ADMIN 1: Are you sure?

KING: I'm sure. Now leave me.

I: The king could not sleep.

J: At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den.

KING: *(anguished)* Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?

DANIEL: O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king.

KING: *(overjoyed)* Lift Daniel out of the den.

A: When Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him,

B: Because he had trusted in his God.

KING: Where are those men who falsely accused Daniel? Throw them along with their wives and children into the lion's den

C: Before they reached the floor of the den,

J: The lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

E: Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land:

F: May you prosper greatly!

G: I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

DANIEL: For he is the living God and he endures forever;

I: His kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.

DANIEL: He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth.

H: He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.

A: Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius

B: and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

D: And not even I have to ask if that's a good thing.

#### PRODUCTION NOTES:

If you have internet access, the following interactive review games are free to play.

**Biblical lions** (battleship style game)

<http://www.quia.com/rr/499927.html>

**Daniel matching**

<http://www.quia.com/jg/1663805.html>

**Daniel Rags to Riches** (Who wants to be a millionaire style game)

<http://www.quia.com/rr/477487.html>

**Daniel Web quest/Scavenger Hunt**

<http://www.quia.com/sh/121164.html>