

GOD'S UNEXPECTED PRESENCE II

Daniel in the Lion's Den

The book of Daniel illustrates what it means for a believer in God to be in the world but not of the world. From chapter one onward the difference between the Jewish young men and the Chaldeans is amplified. Over and over again an attempt is made to cause God's children to bend the knee to the customs of this world yet each time, failure results. No doubt our God has placed an internal resolve in His people which makes them steadfast, unmovable and always abounding.. The story of Daniel in the Lion's den has been told the world over: most kids know it from a variety of books. But how many know that it arose because of jealousy?

A few men (in Dan 6:1-5) decided that Daniel's excellent work ethic made it impossible to find a cause against him on the job, so they turned toward discovering an offense against the state in the worship of his God. The wickedness of people is astounding! Through legislation they crafted a plan to prevent people from praying to their God, and this is where they snared Daniel. He loved his Lord so much that he prayed three times a day. How often do you pray? Imagine this whole scenario: people, so jealous of a righteous man, were willing to put an entire kingdom in bondage to one bill in order to get after one man. Oh, this does show the power of a holy life in a sin darkened world.

The king good not go back on his decree and in verses 14-23 he was grieved because he had signed the document anyhow. Still he interceded for Daniel throughout the day but to no avail. Daniel did enter the darkness of the den of lions. He never one time harbored bitterness in his heart toward the king. Many today—who blame their circumstances on others--would have needed a psychologist to get them over this period of their life. Not so with Daniel. He descended into the pit and “believed in his God”—v.23). Who do you believe in? It could be that an angel is already in the pit into which you will one day find yourself. There is no reason to curse God, only believe! Daniel was lowered into the Den a victim. However, he was raised up a victor. This is a beautiful a picture of our Lord and Savior Jesus' Christ's movement from the cross to the resurrection. Jesus ventured from life to death and to life again.