

Title: "Lion Heart"

Text: Daniel 6:1-28

Target: For centuries persecuted Christians have taken comfort in the courage of Daniel. Today, we approach a familiar story of bravery and boldness that was forged when no one was watching thus preparing to stand strong when everyone was watching.

I. The Promotion of Daniel: (6:1-4)

- a. **Exceeded in Education-Daniel 1:17:** *"God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom"* (Better than the magicians/enchanters)
- b. **Excelled in Interpretation- Daniel 5:15, 4:33, 2:47, 1:17:** *"Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams"*
- c. **Excellent in Reputation: Daniel 6:4:** *"find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him"*

II. The Plot against Daniel: (6:5-9)

- a. **Deceptive Scheme:** *"unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."* (Vs. 5)
- b. **Deity Subdued:** *"whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you"* (Vs.7)
- c. **Decree Signed:** *"Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction"* (Vs. 9)
- d. **Death was Sworn:** *"shall be cast into the den of lions"* (Vs. 7)

III. The Prayer of Daniel: (6:10-13)

- a. **The Place:** *"he went to his house...windows...open toward Jerusalem"* (Vs. 10)
- b. **The Posture:** *"He got down on his knees"* (Vs. 10)
- c. **The Persistence:** *"three times a day"... he had done previously"* (Vs. 10)
- d. **The Praise:** *"gave thanks before his God"* (Vs. 10)
- e. **The Plea:** *"making petition and plea before his God"* (Vs. 11)

IV. The Protection over Daniel: (Vs. 14-17)

- a. **Legal Investigation:** *"was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him"*(Vs. 14)
- b. **Evil Intentions:** *"no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed"* (Vs. 15)
- c. **Anxious Intercession:** *"spent the night fasting...sleep fled from him"* (Vs. 18)

- d. **Divine Intervention:** *“So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God”*
(Vs. 23)

V. The Preservation of Daniel: (Vs. 26-28)

- a. **Captives Released (70 years):** *“I stood up to confirm and strengthen him”* **Daniel 11:1**
- b. **Wise Men from the East: (Numbers 24:17, Matthew 2:9)**

Take Away: An Open Window lead to an Open Tomb and now an open Tomb leads to an Open Window!