



Daniel and the Lions' Den

Daniel 6:10, 14-16, 19-23, 26-27

Drago slid down the pole into the Time Travel Lab. He saw Handsome waving the Time Travel remote. "What's that, friend? You want to bring Daniel here to meet me?" Drago nodded. "Please proceed! That is why I have stayed onboard this Love Sub. I want to learn more about the bold and brave prophet named Daniel. Once, he even faced a den of lions! I admire his courage."

"Time Travel Alert! Time Travel Alert!" the computer announced. A man wearing a purple robe and a shining gold crown slid down the tube and landed hard on his backside.

"Ooh, ow, ooh! That hurt," the little man complained. He stood up and looked around in surprise.

Drago studied the man. "Are you Daniel?"

The wide-eyed man turned toward him. "No, I'm sorry. I'm King Darius," he said.

Drago snatched his light sword and held it high. "Darius! You are the cowardly king in the story! You threw Daniel into the lions' den!"

Darius ducked behind the work table. "Oh, don't hurt me!" he cried. "I didn't mean it! I like Daniel. He's my favorite advisor. He's so smart and nice."

"Then, why did you feed him to the lions?" Drago snarled.

"I didn't mean to. My advisors tricked me into making a law to hurt Daniel. But, later, I took it back and made a new law. I can show you!" Darius offered. "Do you have a Bible?"

Drago stared for a moment then lowered his sword. "It's over there in the power panel."

"Over here?" Darius slid across the opposite wall, keeping his eyes glued on Drago.

Drago watched Darius' movements and shook his head. "Why are you such a chicken baby?"

"I'm not. I'm just a little nervous," Darius explained. "I have a lot of advisors that can't be trusted, so I have to stay on my toes all the time. But, I did make a good law! Look! Here it is!" He read Daniel 6:26a, "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel." Just then, the red warning light flashed and the siren sounded. Darius ran screaming for cover. "Ahhhhh! What's that scary noise?"

Drago sneered, "Oh, come out from there, you big girly man! It's just the warning!"

"A warning!" Darius yelled. "Oh no, are we under attack?"

"No, come out from there!" Drago demanded. "The warning light is just to show us God's warnings from His prophets."

Darius slowly stood up. "But ... I'm no prophet."

"I can see that," Drago stated, while rolling his eyes. "Sometimes, God can even use a wimpy king who does not serve Him to speak His truth!"

"I wish I knew that before I listened to those nasty advisors," Darius said. "You see, I have 120 men who watch over my kingdom and three who watch over them. They report to me," Darius explained. "Daniel is my very favorite advisor. Actually, he's the only one I can really trust. I was going to put him in charge of everything until ..."

"Until? Until what?" Drago interrupted.

Darius leaned forward and whispered, "Until my other advisors found out." Darius looked around warily and said, "I have to whisper. My advisors are always plotting and trying to trick me ..." Handsome popped up next to him and Darius jumped several feet in the air. "Wah!" he screeched and pointed at Handsome. "What is that scary thing?"

"Relax. It's Handsome. He's our deck hand," said Drago. "You're afraid of your own shadow."

Darius just shook his head. "It's my advisors; they make me so nervous. Do you know what they did? They were so jealous of Daniel that they cooked up an evil plan. They talked me into passing a law that said for thirty days everyone had to pray only to me, and if anyone prayed to any other god or man, they would be thrown into a den of lions!"

"That is the same foolish type of law King Nebuchadnezzar made!" Drago growled.

"I know! You think I would have learned from his mistake. I was so foolish to trust them." Darius' shoulders slumped. "I can be so stupid sometimes."

Drago shifted his weight from one foot to the other. "Well, don't be so hard on yourself; everyone makes foolish mistakes."

Darius stared at him. "Even you?"

"Of course not! I'm no fool!" Drago said, his voice booming with authority and power. After a moment, he asked, "So, what did Daniel do?"

"I'll read it to you," Darius offered. He read Daniel 6:10. "Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before." As he finished reading, the choice bell rang and red

and green lights flashed. Darius jumped into the seat of the nearest chair and wrapped his arms around his knees as he shrieked, "AHH!!"

Drago stared. "You are a king! Why are you so afraid?" Darius peeked out from behind the desk.

"You should learn from Daniel," Drago recommended. "He was not afraid to pray to God even when it meant he was putting himself in danger!"

"I know," Darius nodded and stood up. "He's so much braver than me. That's one of the reasons I admire him. He prays to his God every day. He'd never let any man keep him from his God, not even a king! But, those other advisors were out to get him. They caught him praying in his room and told me he broke the law. I had to throw him to the lions."

"Why didn't you change the law?" Drago demanded.

"I couldn't until the thirty days were over. Believe me, I didn't want to hurt him!" Darius insisted. "I tried every way I could to rescue him. I said, 'What if we throw him into a den of puppies?' They wouldn't go for it. I said, 'How about a pit of angry chickens?' But, they insisted the law said a den of lions. So, we put Daniel in the den and sealed the entrance with a big stone. They had totally tricked me into punishing an innocent man."

Drago growled. "You should be ashamed!"

"I felt awful!" Darius groaned. "I couldn't eat or sleep all night long. In the morning, I ran to the den and had the stone removed. Guess what? Daniel was alive!"

"God shut the lions' mouths," Drago stated.

"Yes! God sent an angel into the lions' den to do just that! I was so happy that I made a new law telling everyone to honor Daniel's God." Darius recited his words which are recorded in Daniel 6:26b, "For He is the living God and He endures forever; His kingdom will not be destroyed, His dominion will never end." The promise hand clapping echoed through the lab as the green promise light flashed.

Drago stared as Darius just looked around instead of hiding. "You are not afraid of that sound?"

"No. You know what?" Darius suddenly smiled. "Remembering how Daniel's God rescued him, I suddenly feel brave!" At that moment, a lion's roar came from a corner behind him. He turned around and smiled at the sight of a lion puppet. "Oh Handsome, it's just you."

Drago slapped Darius on the back. "Fear not, King Darius! We have God's promise! We have nothing to fear! Not lions! Not laws! Not jealous advisors! Not hands that live inside of walls! Nothing can keep us from the God who loves us! So, don't ever let anything keep you from trusting and praying to God." Drago watched as Handsome pointed to a watch and then up toward heaven. "Oh yeah, and like our friends on this submarine like to say, 'No matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!'"