

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF GOD

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PART 14: FACING DEATH & THRIVING

Daniel was around 83 years old when King Cyrus of Persia conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. King Cyrus appointed Darius the Mede to rule over the former Babylonian Empire, as a vassal state to Persia. **Daniel 5:31**

Darius wanted to consolidate his grip over Babylon and reorganized its political leadership so that the old Babylonian government system and its officers would be replaced by people who were loyal to the Persian Empire. Babylon was divided into 120 provinces, each with a prince or governor in charge over it. Each local prince was to report to a "troika" of three presidents, who in turn reported to King Darius the Mede, who in turn reported to King Cyrus.

Darius recognized that Daniel was superior to all the political leaders in Babylon since he had supernatural access to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Darius appointed Daniel in charge of the presidents, which meant that Daniel was still second-in-command of the reorganized vassal kingdom of Babylon. **Daniel 6:1-3**

SATAN NEVER GIVES UP

Just as with Job, the Devil was determined to destroy Daniel and will use people who are willing to do his dirty work. In this case, it was the political leadership in its entirety which decided that Daniel was the problem and had to be destroyed. **verses 4-9**

MEN OF GOD NEVER GIVE IN

Daniel had served the Lord for many years and was no stranger to the political intrigues under the old Babylonian government. Serving in the reorganized government of Darius, Daniel decided to trust in God and not hide his time of worship and prayer; as a result, he boldly came to the throne of God as was his habit. **verse 10**

Daniel's enemies thought that they had him trapped and gleefully reported to Darius that Daniel did not obey the newly passed law. **verses 11-13**

The king realized that he had been outsmarted by the men he had put in power, but since he was a vassal king and under King Cyrus, he had no choice but carry out the law he had decreed or his political leaders would bypass him and take their case to King Cyrus. **verses 14-17**

CAN GOD CONTROL HUNGRY LIONS?

King Darius hoped that God would control the lions. **verses 18-20**

Daniel knew that God could control the lions and enjoyed a good night's sleep in their midst. **verses 21-23**

The men that plotted against Daniel were cast into the lion's den along with their families. **verse 24**



Just like King Nebuchadnezzar, King Darius also came to believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and it was published throughout the nation of Babylon. **verses 24-28**

SUMMARY

Few Christians give much thought to the testing that Daniel endured. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were young men when they were tested and thrown into the fiery furnace. Daniel was at least 83 years old when he was lowered into a den of ferocious lions. The testing of our faith will continue until the day God calls us home.

Luke 22:31; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Age should not play any role in the Christian life. Abraham was 75 years old when God called him to go to the Promised Land. **Genesis 12:1-4**

Moses was 80 years old when he was called to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. **Exodus 7:7**

Joshua was around 60 years old when he was commissioned to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land and served as a leader of Israel for 50 years until he died at the age of 110.

Gender and nationality do not make any difference in the Kingdom of God. **Galatians 3:26-29**

The apostle Paul was a true soldier in the army of God. He had the faith to believe that nothing could separate us from the love of God; pain and death has no power over a believer in Christ who trusts God with all his soul. **Romans 8:28-39**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?