

"PLACE OF THE LION"**Date:** August 11, 2019**Speaker:** Danny Clinton**Daniel's Story**

- After Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, besieged Jerusalem, he chose noble men from Israel's royal household, who were handsome and showed an aptitude for learning, to be trained in the ways of the Babylonians.
- Daniel was the greatest of these men...

After many years of captivity, a new King, Darius, reigned and around him rose new advisors.

(Vs) Daniel 6:4-5 – Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. Then these men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.”

(Vs) Daniel 6:6-7 – Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, “O King Darius, live forever! All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.”

Daniel is given the choice to do what the king of this world has asked, or what the King of Heaven has asked...

- But when Daniel hears of this, what is he really contemplating at this point?
- The words “Ordinance” and “Injunction” insinuate a consequence.
- At its very core, Daniel is deciding between the consequences of either the lions or disconnection from God.

Daniel decides to continue in his prayer routine therefore making a choice to serve His living God and not the World He lives in, lions and all!

- *Meaning: The lions don't happen to Daniel...he chooses them.*

- This is why the lion symbol represent the quickening of “choice.”
- As predicted as consequence for his choice, evil quickly pounces upon Daniel’s life.

(Vs) Daniel 6:16-17 – Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.

- Because of his choices, Daniel has been thrown before the prowling lions of his world whose only goal is to destroy him.

This is one of the ways the Devil is described...

(Vs) 1st Peter 5:8b – “Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

- The Devil’s a destroyer... All his power is focused toward this work.
- And so, as he lays still upon the ground, and darkness covers Daniel.
- Eventually he raises himself up and finds himself face to face with his own destruction.
- Just him and that thing he has most feared... Alone and Vulnerable...

Now if you haven’t spent a lot of time with scripture, you may miss the subtly of the picture being painted here...

- **Consider:** Daniel could have been given any number of super human powers to help him avoid or slip away from this situation, but instead Daniel finds himself, although full of faith, poured out and empty.
- In this way, Daniel the man is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. Who, though he was innocent, was envied and hated and condemned to die.
- He too was let down into a pit of death, and a stone was rolled across the entrance and an official seal placed across the stone, reminding us that, as Daniel chose the lions, so Jesus chose the Cross.
- And then, As God would send His Angels to the Lord Jesus Christ to testify, *“He is not here. He is risen.”*
- So it is... He would send *“His Angel”* to shut the Lion’s mouth and raise Daniel from this eminent Death!

(Vs) Daniel 6:19-22 – Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also, before you, O king, I have done no harm.”

In this way, Daniel’s salvation from the Lion’s Den is a lovingly painted picture of how Jesus would save all His children from their own pits of desperation.

- But, it is also a beautiful picture of the way, consequences chosen, can allow us to experience our lives the way they could be. The very Lion’s Den which Daniel was desperately hoping to avoid, turned out to be the place of his great Salvation!

The “Lion filled Place” you and I are trying to avoid, where the costs are just too high to pay, could also be the Holy and Healing presence of God in our lives.

It’s been known for a long time that many of the destructive choices made within a life are much more prescription than sickness based.

- So much of our addiction, rage, over indulgence, and apathy are self-prescribed antidotes for pain unhealed.
- Perhaps, this is why the Bible is so full of stories around God meeting people in the deepest of sorrows, the “valleys” and “storms” where no one but He can reach them.

(Vs) Isaiah 43:2 – “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”

(Vs) Psalm 34:18 – “The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”

(Vs) Psalm 18:2 – “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

Today you can meet Jesus there, deep inside the consequences you’ve been avoiding; that Holy and vulnerable place of consequences chosen.

- This is the place Jesus waits...