

Today, we’d like to see the title of “The Lions’ Shut Mouths” in the book of Daniel 6:16-28.

To Online Word’s people on the earth, we’d like to suggest 3 Questions.

Q1. In verse 16, “So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast *him* into the den of lions. *But* the king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you,” why did the king cast Daniel into the den of lions? And what could we see his saying to Daniel? From here how can we apply to our life?

Q2. In verse 20, “And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” what does the living God mean? And what could we see his saying to Daniel?

Q3. In verses 25 to 27, what could we observe from the decree to tremble and fear before the God of Israel and from its content respectively? From here how should we live in this world?

(Background)

Babylonian captivity – 1st Captive (606 BC- ; Daniel, etc.); 2nd Captive (597 BC-; Ezekiel, etc.); 3rd Captive (- 586BC, Babylon fully conquered Judah)

Around 536 BC Medo-Persia conquered Babylon.

Daniel was over 80 years old in the time of chapter 6.

Daniel his teenage was carried away with his 3 friends in the 1st captive by Babylon in 606 BC. Daniel was faithful to God and to his kings of both Babylon and Mede-Persia through the following event. Darius the Medo-Persian King conquered Babylon but he reigned only for 2 years. And Cyrus became the king.

Events in the Book of Daniel

Sources	Kings	Countries	Events
Daniel 1-4	Nebuchadnezzar	Babylon	Golden image ¹ Dan 2:32-33; 3 friends in fiery furnace ² Dan 3:17-18, 25; grass eater like oxen for 7 years ³ Dan 4:25
Daniel 5, 7-8	Belshazzar	Babylon	Fingers' writing on feast ⁴ Dan 5:25-28; Vision of 4 Beasts ⁵ Dan 7:3-7; a ram & male goat ⁶ Dan 8:3,5
Daniel 6, 9	Darius	Medo-Persia	Daniel cast into the den of lions ⁷ Dan 6:22; Seventy weeks (Eschatology) ⁸ Dan 9:24
Daniel 10-12	Cyrus	Medo-Persia	Great Tribulation ⁹ Dan 11:36, 12:11

Jealous officers conspired to make Darius the king to sign the irrevocable decree against any worshippers except the king for 30 days -- (*Daniel 6:7-8*) "All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.⁸ Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the written decree."

But Daniel faithfully worshipped God of Israel 3 times per day --- (*Dan 6:10*) "Now when Daniel

¹ Dan 2:32-33 This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

² Dan 3:17-18, 25-17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.¹⁸ But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."²⁵ "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

³ Dan 4:25 They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.

⁴ Dan 5:25-28 "And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.²⁶ This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it;²⁷ TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting;²⁸ PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians."

⁵ Dan 7:3-7³ And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.⁴ The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.⁵ "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'"⁶ "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it."⁷ "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. (Babylon; Medo-Persia; Greece; Rome)

⁶ Dan 8:3,5³ Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.⁵ And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. (Medo-Persia; Greece)

⁷ Dan 6:22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."

⁸ Dan 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city,

To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity,

To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

⁹ Dan 11:36 "Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished: for what has been determined shall be done., 12:11 "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.”

Therefore, Daniel violated the decree.

(Text)

<p>¹⁶So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and <u>cast him into the den of lions</u>. <u>But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.”</u></p> <p>¹⁷Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and <u>the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords</u>, that <u>the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed</u>.</p> <p>¹⁸Now the king went to his palace and <u>spent the night fasting</u>; and <u>no musicians were brought before him</u>. Also his sleep went from him.</p> <p>¹⁹Then the king <u>arose very early</u> in the morning and <u>went in haste</u> to the den of lions.</p> <p>²⁰And when he came to the den, he cried out <u>with a lamenting voice to Daniel</u>. <u>The king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”</u> ²¹Then Daniel said to the king, <u>“O king, live forever!</u></p>	<p>16=Q1 cast him into the den of lions (Daniel violated the irrevocable decree not to worship any others than Darius the king where he worshipped God of Israel toward Jerusalem 3 times per day); Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you (pagan King Darius said Daniel serves continually or faithfully – Daniel’s good witness before non-believer Darius, who hoped for delivery of Daniel by Daniel’s God, i.e. Darius had the faith – substance of things hoped for, or evidence of things not seen ¹⁰Heb 11:1; Here, we should live faithfully to God like Daniel, becoming good witnesses even before non-believers.)</p> <p>17= the purpose... might not be changed (irrevocable; Daniel was at risk of life by lions)</p> <p>18= spent the night fasting... no musicians were brought before him (it’s shown that he regretted his signing decree as his folly because he liked Daniel)</p> <p>19= arose very early... went in haste (it’s shown he liked Daniel)</p> <p>20= Q2 with a lamenting voice (again his likeness to Daniel shown); The king... saying to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God (our God is alive, not dead. He is working in our life, not corruptible. If money, excitement, thrill, knowledge, or whatever is mastering, ruling, or dominating our life, it is our god. But it will pass away. It is dead or corruptible. Here, Daniel’s God would work in the risk of his life by lions); your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions? (Darius the king eyewitnessed Daniel was faithful to God, raising the question of His delivery.)</p>
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¹⁰ Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

<p>²² <u>My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths</u>, so that they have <u>not hurt me</u>, because I was found <u>innocent before Him</u>; and also, O king, I <u>have done no wrong before you.</u>"</p> <p>²³ Now the king was <u>exceedingly glad for him</u>, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and <u>no injury</u> whatever was found on him, <u>because he believed in his God.</u></p> <p>²⁴ And the king gave the command, and they brought <u>those men who had accused Daniel</u>, and they <u>cast them</u> into the den of lions—<u>them, their children, and their wives</u>; and the lions overpowered them, and <u>broke all their bones in pieces</u> before they ever came to the bottom of the den.</p> <p>²⁵ Then <u>King Darius wrote</u>:</p> <p><u>To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth:</u></p> <p><u>Peace be multiplied to you.</u></p>	<p>22= My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths (often God would get glory when He delivers His children from dangers supernaturally; God is always there with His children in the danger, here through His angel, e.g. the son of God in 3 friends in fiery furnace <i>Dan 3:24-25; Deut 31:8</i>¹¹); ; innocent before Him... have done no wrong before you (his grievance exposed to Darius)</p> <p>23= exceedingly glad for him (because the king liked Daniel); no injury... because he believed in his God (because of Daniel's faith in God <i>Mark 9:22-23; Heb 11:33; Mat 17:20</i>¹²— a good witness before the pagan king)</p> <p>24= those men who had accused Daniel... cast them into the den of lions—them, their children, and their wives (what a cruel punishment to their families in Persian practice of law! Unlike the law of God ¹³<i>Ezekiel 18:20</i>); broke all their bones in pieces (it is manifested that really God through His angel had shut the mouths of lions against Daniel.)</p> <p>(25-27= Q3 Decree to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel)</p> <p>25= King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you (his eyewitness testimony about God of Israel is similar to Nebuchadnezzar eyewitness testimony to see delivery of 3 friends out of fiery furnace ¹⁴<i>Dan 4:1</i>)</p>
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¹¹ *Dan 3:24-25* Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." ²⁵"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."; *Deut 31:8* And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed." (*Deut 31:6; Joshua 1:5; Heb 13:5*)

¹² *Mark 9:22-23* And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." ²³ Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." *Heb 11:33* who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions; *Mat 17:20* So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief, for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

¹³ *Ezekiel 18:20* The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

¹⁴ *Dan 4:1* Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

<p>²⁶I make <u>a decree</u> that in every dominion of my kingdom <u>men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.</u></p> <p>For He <u>is the living God,</u> And <u>steadfast forever;</u> <u>His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed,</u> And <u>His dominion shall endure to the end.</u></p> <p>²⁷ <u>He delivers and rescues,</u> And <u>He works signs and wonders</u> <u>In heaven and on earth,</u> <u>Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.</u></p> <p>²⁸ So this Daniel <u>prospered</u> in the reign of <u>Darius</u> and in the reign of <u>Cyrus</u> the Persian.</p>	<p>26=Q3 a decree... must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel (the righteousness legislation to force people to be righteous is against God's purpose who gave a man a free will in His creation to cause loving relationship rather than legal relationship <i>Gen 2:16-17; Lev 19:5; Luke 9:23¹⁵</i>); For He is the living God... steadfast forever... His kingdom... shall not be destroyed.. His dominion shall endure to the end</p> <p>27=Q3 He delivers and rescues.. He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth Who has delivered Daniel from the power of lions (Darius the pagan eyewitness made this testimony how the living God had worked in the life of faithful Daniel – we as the children of God should live faithfully to God, becoming good witnesses before even non-believers).</p> <p>28= Daniel prospered in... Darius....and Cyrus (he did faithful to God as well as to those kings <i>Eph 6:5; Roman 13:1¹⁶</i>)</p>
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¹⁵ *Gen 2:16-17* And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat. for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."; *Lev 19:5* 'And if you offer a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD, you shall offer it of your own free will: *Luke 9:23* Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

¹⁶ *Eph 6:5* Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; *Romans 13:1* Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.