

Daniel was just a little boy when the soldiers from Babylon marched into Jerusalem. There was shouting and Daniel was scared, but his father explained what had happened. “Son, our army has lost the war. Now we will have to do what the king of Babylon tells us, for he is our king now.

So Daniel and his family, along with many of their friends and neighbors, moved to Babylon. But his parents made sure that Daniel did not forget their old life. “We must obey our new king, “ said his parents, “but we must also remember our God.” So Daniel learned to pray to his own God, and live in the way his parents thought was right.

Now it didn't take long for Daniel's new king to see that Daniel was very clever. Daniel was invited to the king's court to learn language, culture and sport. Daniel learned these things with ease and was thankful that he was safe, but he never forgot his childhood faith and would stop and pray three times each day. Praying gave him strength, courage and faith to face the many challenges in front of him.

One night the king had a scary dream. He didn't know what it meant, so he asked his wise men. None could help. So, desperate, he asked young Daniel and Daniel was able to explain the dream to the king. The king then made Daniel his chief advisor.

Then the king threw a big party. People were acting wildly when suddenly, a mysterious hand appeared and wrote strange words on the wall. The king trembled, “What does that mean? Send for Daniel at once!”

When Daniel saw the words he knew their meaning: “God had decided to end your rule. God sees that you have not lead a good life.” And so it was, just as Daniel said.

Because of Daniels great wisdom, the king picked Daniel to be his most important advisor. The other wise men were jealous of Daniel. These men were not really wise, nor were they honest and they despised Daniel for his good sense. After all, Daniel was not even from Babylon, he was a stranger. So...they plotted and schemed against him.

They went to the king to launch their wicked plot. “O King, these are hard times for Babylon. There are many people asking the gods for different things in different ways and in different languages. No wonder our lives are confused. But we have an idea. You should make a new law that says that for the next month no one may ask a favor of any god or any man but you, our great and wise king. And, if anyone disobeys, they'd be thrown into the lions' den.”

The king was amazed and flattered by the plan. He did not think that praying even mattered, but he thought it was worth a try. He signed the law just to see what would happen.

Now we all know Daniel prayed every day, so it was easy for the wise men to catch him praying to God. “We've got him now!” and they called the king to report the crime. The

king recognized their evil plot, but once a law was a law, it could not be changed. So the king hung his head in anger and worry, while the wise men threw Daniel into the Den.

The lions were hungry, and their manes were big and hairy. Drool was coming from their empty jaws. But Daniel was free from fear. He knew God was near and he was ready. Daniel looked that lion in the eye.

This confused and frightened the lion. A lion only roars at fear. It was so different from other men, that the lion backed off. Daniel and the lions all went to sleep.

The next morning, the king ordered the boulder to be removed from the den. The king was afraid for Daniel, but called out, "Daniel, are you there?" Daniel called back, "God has saved me. I am here!" The king was overjoyed and ordered that wherever people prayed, that Daniel's God would be obeyed and no other.