

DANIEL: A TYPE OF CHRIST

Daniel 6:22 as before him innocency was found in me

I don't suppose any of us could actually imagine what Daniel was called of God to go through in the lead-up to the lion's den. Let's try to draw the picture as best we can.

Here was an old man for whom the most of his life was lived in captivity. Yes, we know he would have been comfortable but we also know it was his desire to be in Jerusalem. His heart *yearned* to be back home. Every day, - three times a day, - he faced towards his beloved city and prayed earnestly before God for the release of God's people from captivity.

One day, as he was praying, the soldiers came and arrested him. They brought him to the place where the lions were kept. He could hear the roaring of the animals, - I suppose when they heard a noise they automatically thought it was their keeper coming to feed them. ... But on this day, - this particular day, - an old man was to be thrown in amongst them so as to suffer the most harrowing death. Daniel was put in amongst those lions, the stone was rolled across the door, it was sealed ... and *Daniel couldn't get out!*

The next day, the king Darius (a 'good' friend of Daniel's) came down to see if he was still living, ... to see if the God he was always speaking about had saved him, **v.20 O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Daniel replied ... from the midst of the lion's den, v.22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me ...**

It's those words, **forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me** that we are going to consider this evening. Let's take them and see how they can be applied to the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PURPOSE OF HIS IMPRISONMENT

- * Daniel was thrown into the lions' den for one reason and for one reason only, ... because he was faithful to the service of God. ... **servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually (v.20).**

- * It wasn't because he was a foreigner ... that he was a Jew, - because we don't read of any others being thrown into the den at this time,
- * Neither was it simply because they were jealous of him.
- * It was because of the God Whom he served and his total lack of compromise to accept the gods of Babylon.
- * Remember ... at the very beginning of the ministry of the Lord Jesus the devil came along to Him, *Mt. 4:9 All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*
- * I'm sure as the Pharisees looked and listened to the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Jerusalem temple, and as they heard him speak and marvelled at the depth of the questions He was asking, I'm sure they thought to themselves, "Here's a young Boy would be good as one of us!"
- * But Jesus rejected the beckoning of the devil as the devil took him up onto the mountain; Jesus rejected the self-righteousness and the vain religiosity of the Pharisees.
- * Daniel wouldn't conform ... and Jesus wouldn't conform!
- * The Lord Jesus left the Glory of Heaven, - where He was the central Focus of worship, - and *He made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient ...*
- * Daniel, - the third ruler in the kingdom, - when they came for him he didn't argue ... didn't seek to take his point to a judicial enquiry or before his friend the king; ... he obeyed the command, he was taken on his own to face the death and to be punished the way the ungodly dictated.
- * **The purpose of his imprisonment** was that they could find nothing against him ... *except* that he was *the servant of the living God, ... whom [he] serve[d] continually.*
- * Isn't that a good picture of Jesus?! He never argued when He stood before Caiphas, or Herod, or Pilate.
- * He never uttered a word in His defence, - just like Daniel.
- * They could find nothing against Him, so they had to make it up, - just as they had to do when they couldn't find anything against Daniel and they had to make up a false law.
- * They humiliated Jesus, - as they would have done to Daniel; they taunted Jesus and they called Him mockingly the "King of the Jews"; they humiliated Daniel too, - this powerful man, and yet they had Him thrown into a den of lions.

- * This was how Jesus was to be treated ... and even worse 600 years later.
- * What was His 'crime'? He claimed to be the Son of God.
- * What did this 'criminal' Jesus do? He healed the sick, - He made the blind to see, the dumb to speak, the dead to live ... and yet they hated Him too.
- * What was Daniel's 'crime'? ... His crime was that he prayed to his God, - the same God that interpreted the dreams of the kings of Babylon and of the Medes and Persians.
- * Daniel is an Old Testament picture of the Lord Jesus and the hatred and the opposition He had to pass through, but then note too ...

THE PROTECTION IN HIS IMPRISONMENT

My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me (v.22)

- * The king was a good friend (mind you, with friends like that, who needs enemies!) ... the king wasn't able to eat or sleep that night.
- * He went early to the lions' den and shouted through the huge stone to Daniel, "Are you still alive? Are you living, Daniel? Has the God you love protected you from the lions?"
- * ... Instead of hearing the roar from the lions he heard praise from the lips of Daniel, *My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me.*
- * Here's this old man who had stood up for God throughout the whole of his life ... and he was still standing for God.
 - * The king's decree, - signed with the king's signet ring, - hadn't silenced him.
 - * The princes and authorities who had him thrown into the lions in the first place weren't able to silence him either,
 - * ... and of course, not even the lions could stop his witness to the goodness of God.
- * While cast alone in among the lions he had no other protection but that which he received from God, *My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me.*
- * Then think of Jesus on the cross ... as the tree was lowered into the ground, and the pain shot up through His body, He too was entering alone into the 'lion's den' where every demonic enemy of God lashed out at Him with all the ferocity and more of the most wicked hungry scavengers.

- * “He could have called ten thousand angels to destroy the world and to set Him free ... He could have called ten thousand angels, but He died alone for you and me”.
- * In the grace and mercy of God Daniel didn't suffer from the lions, ... but all the sins of God's people were heaped upon the shoulders of the Saviour.
- * You see ... the purpose of the Saviour's death was to bring redemption and justification, - He became the propitiation (the substitute) for sinners.
- * And even in that most horrible death we still can see **the protection** that God afforded to His only-begotten Son, for in the will of God it had been pre-determined that after three days He would rise again from the dead ... that He would come out of the tomb ... and here we see ...

THE POWERLESSNESS OF HIS IMPRISONMENT

- * When the stone was rolled away at the command of king Darius (v.23) Daniel *walked* out from the midst of the lions ...
- * When the stone was rolled away at the command of Almighty God the Lord Jesus Christ *walked* out from the very presence of the greatest enemy, death.
- * The stone was unable to keep Him imprisoned; the threat of death was powerless to keep Him in the tomb.
- * At the command of the King of kings the stone was rolled away and the Lord Jesus demonstrated His victory over death, the cross, hell, sin and its originator.
- * When the stone was rolled away Daniel walked out of the den; then **the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den. ... The enemies of God were defeated when the stone was rolled away!**
- * It was utterly and absolutely impossible for death to defeat the God Who brought life into being.
- * Jesus on the cross defeated once and for all all the devils in hell; His death can never be repeated ... and never needs to be repeated because in His death is the only full and complete atonement for sin.

- * ... And death on the cross was powerless to hold Him, the tomb was helpless to restrain Him ... for like Daniel, He was victorious; He walked out into the Garden, - the risen, glorified, conquering Saviour!
- * **The powerlessness of His imprisonment.**

CONCLUSION.

- * This is the Man Who is our Saviour. He is the God of Daniel ... the God Who gave His only-begotten Son to die for our sin.
- * It was **the purpose of His imprisonment** to be brought low and suffer the taunts and hatred of the crowds,
- * It was **the protection in His imprisonment** that even on the cross Jesus would successfully bring to completion the plan drawn up in eternity for the salvation of His very own,
- * And it was **the powerlessness of His imprisonment** that neither the cross nor the tomb could defeat that plan for in the mercy and grace of God salvation was won and all glory was brought to the Name of the Sovereign and Almighty God.
- * Even Darius wrote, [26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. 27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.](#)
- * This is the God we worship, and besides Whom there is none other.