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Daniel 6:1–10 (NKJV) It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty [princes], to be over the whole kingdom; ² and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the [princes] might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. ³ Then...Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and [princes], because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. ⁴ So the governors and [princes] sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. ⁵ Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God." ⁶ So these governors and [princes] thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever! ⁷ All the [governmental advisors] of the kingdom...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. ¹⁰ Now when Daniel 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.

Cultivate Character

2 Timothy 3:12–15 (NKJV) Yes, and **all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.** ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Defy the Den

Thrive in Hostility

Matthew 5:11–12 (NKJV) **Blessed** are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² **Rejoice** and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Daniel 6:14 (NKJV) And the king...was greatly displeased with himself, and **set his heart on Daniel to deliver him**; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

Daniel 6:18–22 (NKJV) Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting.... ¹⁹ Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰ And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel...has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" ²¹ Then Daniel said to the king.... ²² **"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me..."**