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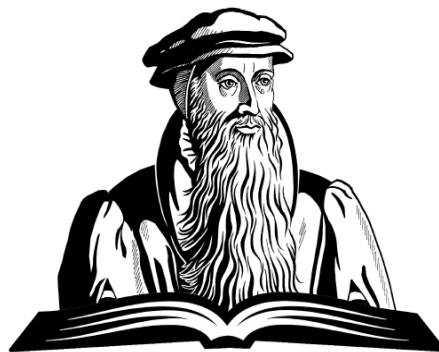
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 90

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

(Additional lessons forthcoming)

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
| 10. Abram: Called by God | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 12. Melchizadek | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | 43. Cities of Refuge |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | 45. Moses' Last Days |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
- 90. Daniel in the Lions' Den**
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

Lesson 90

Daniel in the Lions' Den

The Book of Daniel, chapter 6

Memory Verse

"The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken. The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgaion. Selah."

Psalm 9:15–16

A Pleased King

After a long and eventful life, perhaps Daniel was looking forward to a quiet retirement. But this was not to be. He had recently witnessed the sudden fall of the Babylonian Empire. Now he served under King Darius, the ruler of the Medes and Persians. In chapter 6, we read how Darius appointed 120 princes over the kingdom, and three presidents over them. He made Daniel to be one of his three presidents. He saw Daniel's "excellent spirit," his wisdom, faithfulness and experience, so he decided to make Daniel over all of them. The king realized that a trustworthy man like Daniel would be a great help to root out corruption and keep other rulers accountable. This is when the other presidents and princes became alarmed. Daniel's wisdom and faithfulness would be a great hindrance to their plans of enriching themselves. No longer could they abuse their power for personal gain. So they decided among themselves a plan to get rid of Daniel.

A Wicked Plot

Daniel's honesty and integrity frustrated the other presidents and princes. Try as they might, they could find nothing to accuse Daniel before the king. How this must have secretly accused them and made them look bad. Now everyone knew that Daniel prayed to the God of Israel three times a day, so they thought of a clever plan. They would suggest a plan to unify the kingdom by giving King Darius divine honours. They would pretend that "all the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, the princes, the counsellors and the captains" had agreed to make a firm decree that no one was allowed to ask anything of any god or man except King Darius for thirty days. If anyone prayed to any god or person besides King Darius, the penalty would be to be thrown into the lions' den. They drew up the decree, and presented it to King Darius. He was flattered by so much loyalty, so he signed the decree.

Very shortly after, we find the same delegation before the king once again, this time hardly able to hide their glee. Their plot had succeeded! Their assumption had proven correct! Daniel would continue to be faithful, not only to the King, but in the first place to his God. No royal decree or lions' den could keep him from doing what he always did, which was to kneel down three times a day before an open window facing Jerusalem, to plead for God's mercy. The princes and presidents reported this to Darius, and the king was saddened. He liked Daniel, but there was no way to

reverse the decree. It was the law. And so, Daniel was arrested and brought to the den of lions. Darius could not save him, but he was hopeful as he said to Daniel, “Thy God, whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee,” as they lowered Daniel into the lion’s den, and a stone was rolled over the opening, and the king sealed it.

A Divine Rescue

King Darius was very upset. He could not eat or enjoy music, and did not sleep that night. Very early in the morning, the king he hurried to the lions’ den. Hoping against hope, he called out to Daniel “with a lamentable voice.” What a happy shock it must have been to hear Daniel’s voice in reply, “O king, live forever. My God hath sent his angel and hath shut the lions’ mouths that they have not hurt me.” While the king had an anxious, sleepless night, Daniel felt heavenly peace and joy in the lions’ den. Not so the rulers, however. They were called, and the king ordered them to be thrown to the lions instead of Daniel. Deeply impressed, the king made another decree: “that in every dominion of my kingdom, men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God.”

The Gospel in the Old Testament

The law of the Medes and Persians was irreversible. That meant that Daniel had to go down into the lions’ den. However, after a night in the den, the law could not keep Daniel in there. Daniel had endured the punishment. He was now “dead to the law” (Romans 7:4). Therefore the stone could be rolled away and Daniel could come out. God’s law is truly irreversible. Because of sin, we are all under the sentence of death. That is why God sent his only begotten Son to endure the punishment, to die, and to be buried in the grave. Once he had done this however, “death hath no more dominion over him” (Romans 6:9). In Romans 6:11, Paul writes, “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” What a great salvation! If you may be included in this, you are free! No wonder that Christian, in Pilgrim’s Progress, put his fingers in his ears and ran on, crying, “Life! Life! Eternal life!”

Review Questions

1. “It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom _____ princes, and over these, three _____, of whom _____ was first: that the princes might give _____ to them, and the King should have no _____.”

2. Why were the presidents and princes upset with Daniel?

- a. They were jealous of Daniel’s promotion.
- b. They wanted to enrich themselves by cheating the king.
- c. Probably both of the above.

3. Why could they not find any fault in Daniel?

- a. Daniel was too smart.
- b. Daniel had no sin.
- c. Daniel was faithful.

4. How did the princes decide to get rid of Daniel?

- a. Bribe Daniel with money.
- b. Trap Daniel with his religion.
- c. Tell lies about Daniel to the King.

5. Why did the princes think that the king might agree to sign the new law?

- a. The king liked the honour.
- b. The king didn't dare oppose the princes.
- c. The king didn't pay attention to matters of state.

6. What did Daniel do when he heard the new law?

- a. He prayed in secret.
- b. He complained to the King.
- c. He prayed just as he always did

7. How did the king feel when he was told about Daniel's disobedience?

- a. He was displeased with Daniel.
- b. He was displeased with himself.
- c. He was displeased with the princes.

8. Why could the king not prevent Daniel from being cast into the Lions' den?

9. What three things did the king not have that night?

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Daniel wanted to pray before an open window facing Jerusalem?
(Read 1 Kings 8:47–49)

2. Why do you think Daniel didn't just pray in secret for a month in order to save his life? How might it have affected his Jewish brethren if he had done so?

3. Are there times when it is wise to close the windows and blinds and pray to God in secret?

4. What parallels are there between the history of Daniel in the lions' den and the burial of the Lord Jesus Christ? _____
