

Faith Quest 2010

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Regina

Daniel and the Lion's Den

The book of Daniel in the Old Testament is divided into 2 different sections. The first half of the book (chapters 1-6) tells how Daniel and 3 of his friends from Judah are taken prisoner by the Babylonian army when Jerusalem was captured and become important officials in the government at Babylon. The second half of the book of Daniel is where Daniel reports several visions and the meanings of those visions.

The section of the Book of Daniel this rotation will focus on is Daniel 6:1-28, the story of God rescuing Daniel from the pit of lions. This story happened after the army of Babylon had conquered Israel and taken the Jewish people back to Babylon as captives. Daniel was a Jew who grew up in Babylon and was an assistant to the Babylonian king. Daniel did a good job and King Darius trusted him and planned to make Daniel the boss of all the other assistants.

The other assistants were jealous of Daniel and tried to figure out a reason to complain about him to the king. But Daniel hadn't done anything wrong, so his enemies set a trap for him. They persuaded King Darius to sign an order that people could pray only to the king. Anyone who disobeyed the order would be thrown to the lions.

But Daniel worshipped God, not the king, and the king's order did not stop him from praying to God. Three times a day he went to his house, where the upstairs windows were opened to face Jerusalem, and prayed. His enemies went to his house and caught him praying and told the king. The king was upset, but according to the law he had to carry out his order, so he commanded that Daniel be thrown to the lions, saying, "May your God deliver you!".

The next morning the king hurried to the lion's den and called, "Daniel, did your God save you?" And Daniel answered, "God sent an angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not hurt me."

The king was overjoyed. Daniel was freed unharmed from the lion's den and King Darius wrote a message to all the world saying, "In all my kingdom people shall fear the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring for ever. He delivers and rescues, he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."