

Integrity Defeat Corruption

¹It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom,² with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss.³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.⁵ Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."⁶ So the administrators and the satraps went as a group to the king and said: "O King Darius, live forever!⁷ The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den."⁸ Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."⁹ So King Darius put the decree in writing.¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.¹² So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or man except to you, O king, would be thrown into the lions' den?" The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."¹³ Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day."¹⁴ When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.¹⁵ Then the men went as a group to the king and said to him, "Remember, O king, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed."¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed.¹⁸ Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den.²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"²¹ Daniel answered, "O king, live forever!²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.²⁴ At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land: "May you prosper greatly!²⁶ "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end."²⁷ He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."²⁸ So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian." (Daniel 6:1-28)

God had created everything and He is the Sovereign over the whole universe; For He is the living God and his love endures forever. After man sinned God made a way for man to be saved.

He sent His son the Lord Jesus Christ to save mankind. Jesus died on the cross for our sins to give us eternal life and to bring us back to Him and have a life to the full.

God had created all the things for Him to be glorified and He gave all the things that are around us for our enjoyment. One of the things that God instituted is the rules and the rulers. The structure that is there, and you are in, to govern a company, factory, church, city or a whole country is instituted by God and it is primarily here as we read in the story of Daniel is for service. The satraps and the administrators are to serve and to be good steward and be accountable to the affairs and the interest of the king so that he will not suffer loss. And if the king suffers loss the people under his care will also suffer loss. So we conclude that the system that was instituted, and any other system is instituted under God's permission is for the benefits of everyone.

But the system can be used by evil doers to bring corruption as we read here in the story of Daniel. There was people who are jealous of him and had bad intention; they were trying to find a ground to accuse him but since they could not, then what they did they use the same system to harm Daniel. So the system that was instituted for good purpose now became corrupted by the evil motive of the evil doers. The same things you might be suffering; the system that you are in and that was instituted for noble purpose now it is becoming corrupted and you are the victim of that as the situation was with Daniel. But there is a way that you can be spared troubles and got delivered even from the lions and their mouths. That is possible through the following:-

1- Be a man of Integrity: Be honest in your work, do exactly what you are assigned to do, and don't be corrupted or be bribed as others are doing. Be a trustworthy person, diligent in your work and not negligent. These are the exceptional qualities that can make you a valuable person and fit for promotion.

2- Life of prayer, obedience to the Word of God and full devotion to the Lord: When Daniel heard what was decided and agreed upon, he did not retaliate or fight or do evil. He did as he was doing before. He kneeled down in prayer and give thanks to the Lord. He did not grumble or make a fuss with his work. But He continued to be faithful and diligent to what God had entrusted to Him.

3- Full trust in God: In the story of Daniel the king himself was fund with Daniel and he tried to release him but he could not. What we want to say here is that in certain situation even there are people willing to help you and support you to save you the mouths of the lions, but they cannot do. In such situation and in the rest you have to place your full trust in God who can deliver you as He delivered Daniel. God can shut the mouth of every lion that is rise around and want to bite you. You need to fully trust God and you will be upheld with his grace and be lifted up from the lion's den with out any wound, and He will put those who trouble you in the same trouble.

My dear and beloved: Daniel said, "My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." God will save you because God is good, and suppose He will found you innocent and have not done wrong. Therefore integrity before God and men are very important to keep God beside you and found him there to save you from trouble and to promote you and makes you prosperous and successful as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I fully trust in you, I kneel down and pray asking you to help me and deliver me from the very urgent problem that I am in. Lord close the mouth of lions and protect me, promote me and makes me prosperous, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.