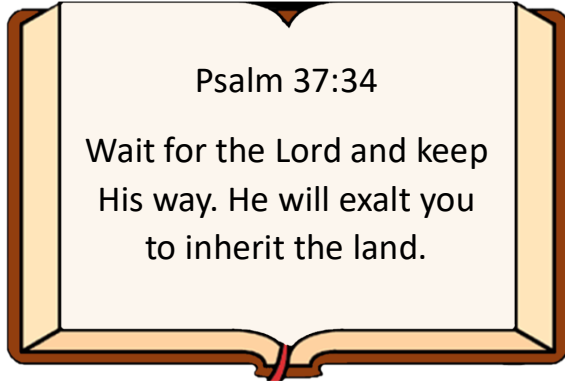


Weekly Memory Verse



God Saves Daniel from the Lions



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What two things should we do for the Lord?

1. _____
2. _____

What will God do? _____



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Lesson Link

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Daniel served King Nebuchadnezzar for about thirty-nine years after being taken from his home in Jerusalem. During all those years Daniel honored God by serving the king well and by speaking for God when he could. During the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar's son and grandson, Daniel remained faithful to God, trusting and obeying Him as he went about his work.

Daniel was over eighty years old when the Medes and Persians conquered Babylon.

Darius became king over Babylon, and he appointed 120 governors to help him rule the kingdom. He then appointed three men to supervise the governors. Daniel was chosen to be one of the supervisors.

Even though Daniel was old, he did his work better than the other supervisors and governors. Darius was pleased with Daniel's work and made plans to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom.

The other supervisors were jealous and angry. They remembered that Daniel was a Jew, not a Babylonian or a Mede or a Persian. So, the men tried very hard to find fault with Daniel so that they could report it to the king. But they could find *nothing* dishonest or wrong with Daniel or his work. Finally they said, "We will never find anything against Daniel unless it has something to do with the way he worships his God."

Immediately the governors and supervisors went to the king. They bowed down before him and said, "We have all agreed that the king should make this law for everyone to obey: No one can pray to any god or man except to you, O king, for the next 30 days. Anyone who doesn't obey will be thrown into the lions' den. Make the law and write it down so that it cannot be changed." The king never suspected what the men were really planning. So he wrote the law and put his seal on it. That meant it couldn't be changed or reversed; it was an official law according to the Law of the Medes and Persians.

When Daniel heard about the king's new law, he went home and knelt in front of his window to pray to God. This was Daniel's habit to pray three times a day. Daniel prayed to God as he always did. He did not let those wicked men force him into disobeying God.

The governors and supervisors went as a group and found Daniel praying to his God just like he always did.

Circle the correct answer.

When Daniel heard the law was passed against praying to God, he (*continued, didn't continue*) to pray to God.

Immediately the men went to the king and said, "Didn't you make a law stating that no one can pray to any man or god except you, O king? Doesn't it say that anyone who disobeys this law during the next thirty days will be thrown into the lions' den?"

"Yes," replied the king, "and the law cannot be changed or cancelled."

Then the men said to the king, "Daniel, the exile from Judah, has not paid attention to the king's law! He still prays to his God three times a day!" When Darius heard this, he became very upset. He realized he had been tricked into signing the law. The king worked until sunset, trying to find a way to save Daniel.

Finally, the king gave up trying; he had to obey his own law. He gave orders for Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den. As Daniel was being led away, Darius said, "May the God you serve all the time save you."

After Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, a large rock was placed over the mouth of the den, and the king put his seal on it along with those of all his officials. King Darius returned to the palace, but he could not eat or sleep. His servants tried to play music to help him sleep, but all he could think of was Daniel.

At dawn the next morning the king hurried out to the lions' den. When he came near to the den, he called out to Daniel in a loud and worried voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Has your God, whom you always worship, been able to save you from the lions?"

Then Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! My God sent His angel to close the lions' mouths. They have not hurt me." The king was bursting with joy and relief as he gave orders to bring Daniel out of the lions' den. Sure enough, Daniel had no injuries, not even a scratch! Daniel had trusted and obeyed God, and God protected him in the lions' den.

Then the king gave orders for the men who accused Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den. The lions grabbed them before they hit the floor of the den and destroyed them quickly.

Then King Darius wrote a new law to all people throughout the lands where the Medes and Persians ruled. Darius said, "I am making a new law that is for everyone in my kingdom. Everyone must fear and respect the God of Daniel." Darius saw God's power at work—doing things no man-made god can do.

Because Daniel trusted and obeyed his God, God made him very successful throughout the reign of Darius the Mede.

Who did God send to shut the lion's mouths? _____
