

Unsealing

DANIEL'S MYSTERIES

WITH MARK FINLEY

◆ Confidence in the Crisis ◆

6



ADVENTURES IN BIBLE PROPHECY



6

Confidence in the Crisis

When our will conflicts with God's will—and we choose His will instead of our own—our commitment to Him deepens. Christian character is developed when our faith is tested. God often allows us to experience temptations, to enable us to grow.

Throughout his life, Daniel faced significant temptations. As he met these temptations through the power of God, his faith grew. The story of Daniel in the lions' den is a familiar one, but it contains vital lessons of courage for end-time Christians.

Intrigue in the Palace

1. What influential position did Daniel have in the Medo-Persian Empire? Daniel 6:1, 2.
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God richly blessed Daniel's faithfulness. His diplomatic service spanned seventy years. He served under numerous kings in two different empires. Daniel's life illustrates the biblical principle, "Those who honor Me I will honor" (1 Samuel 2:30, NKJV).

Daniel's colleagues coveted his position. Their jealousy led to lying, and lying led to the willingness to murder Daniel.

2. What was the only area of Daniel's life which these evil plotters thought they might use to trap him? Daniel 6:5.

Jealous of Daniel's position, these Medo-Persian statesmen resorted to a conspiracy of lies. Their greed led them to be willing to put Daniel to death. Cherished in the heart, sin puts down it's roots and produces ugly fruit.

3. Where did Daniel's final test lie? Daniel 6:7.

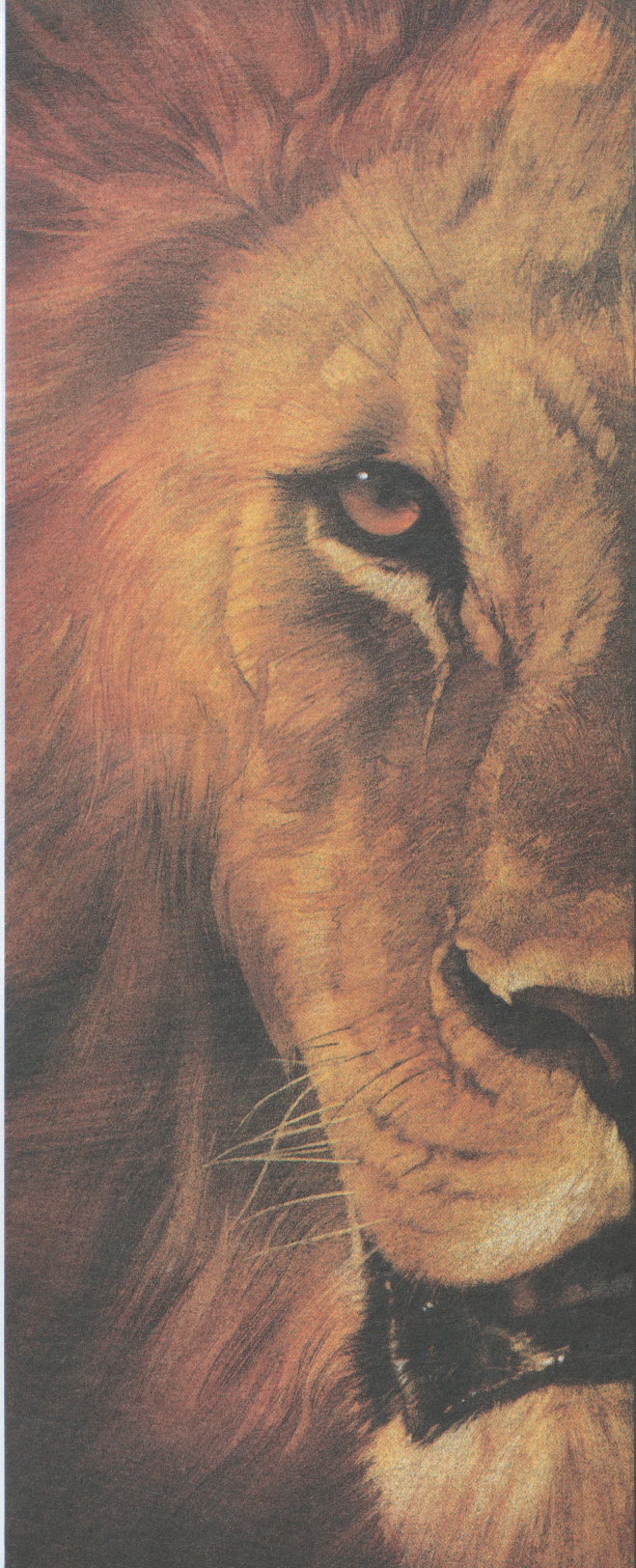
Daniel's final test revolved around the question of true and false worship. It centered in the counterfeit versus the genuine.

Daniel's Unyielding Faith

4. Although Daniel knew the decree was signed, how did he respond? Daniel 6:10.

Prayer was Daniel's constant source of strength for maintaining an intimate relationship with God. It was vital. Prayer is the Christian's lifeline to heaven.



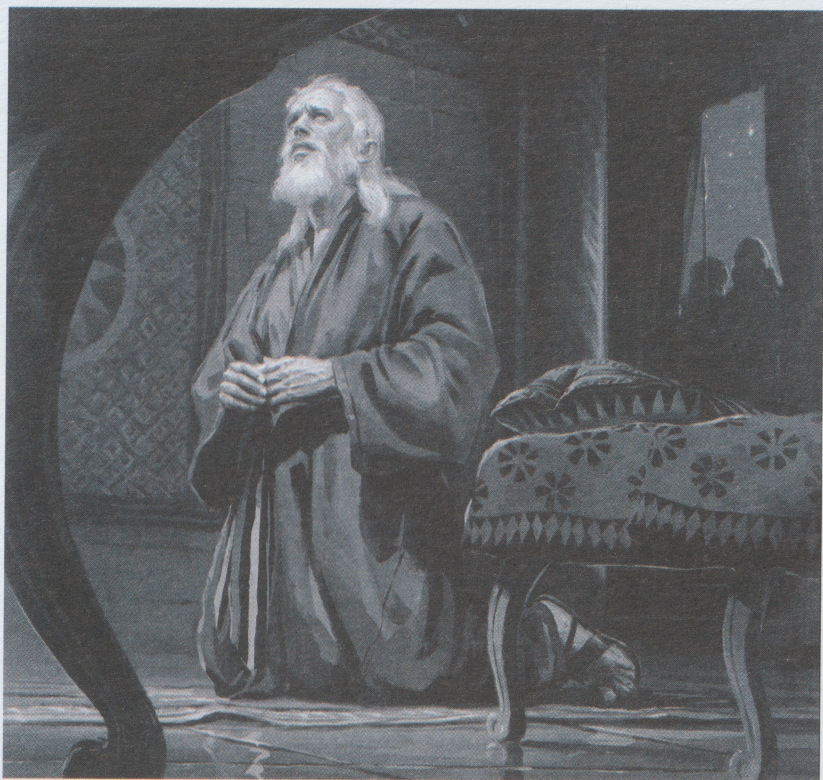


Daniel's diplomatic service spanned seventy years, serving under numerous kings in two different empires. Daniel's colleagues coveted his position. Their jealousy led to lying and a willingness to murder Daniel.

5. When Daniel was cast into the lions' den, what statement did Darius make, indicating he, too, had confidence in Daniel's God? Daniel 6:16.
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Darius violated his own conscience; he knew that he was condemning an innocent man. Filled with guilt, he spent a restless, sleepless night in the palace. Unresolved guilt creates anxiety and dis-ease. The consciousness of doing right brings a sense of calm in the midst of life's storms. Daniel was at peace in the lions' den, while Darius was filled with stress in his palace.

Arriving at the lions' den in the early-morning hours, the king discovered that Daniel had been miraculously delivered.



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6. To whom did Daniel pay tribute for his deliverance? Daniel 6:22.

7. What provisions does God make for us during our times of greatest temptation? 1 Corinthians 10:13.

8. How did Paul testify of God's power to keep him faithful while he was imprisoned in Rome? Philippians 4:13.

The devil's power to overwhelm us is greater than our ability to resist. Left alone, we are powerless. But strengthened by God's power, we will be victorious.

9. What tribute did Darius, the heathen king, pay to Daniel's God? Daniel 6:26, 27.

The word, *steadfast*, means "reliable," "trustworthy," "one who can be counted upon." God never lets us down. When the lions of temptation roar in our ears, He is there to shut their mouths. When the evil one attempts to destroy us, He is there to deliver us.

- The lamb, dying in the court, represented Jesus as our dying sacrifice.
- The priest, ministering in the Holy Place, represented Jesus, our Priest in heaven's sanctuary, offering forgiveness, mercy, and power for a new life.
- The high priest entering the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary and standing before God's law in the presence of God on the day of the cleansing of the sanctuary, represented Jesus our High Priest and His final work of judgment to do away with sin forever.

15. What is God's goal on this final Day of Atonement, this time of cleansing the sanctuary from sin? Hebrews 9:22, 23; Leviticus 16:30.

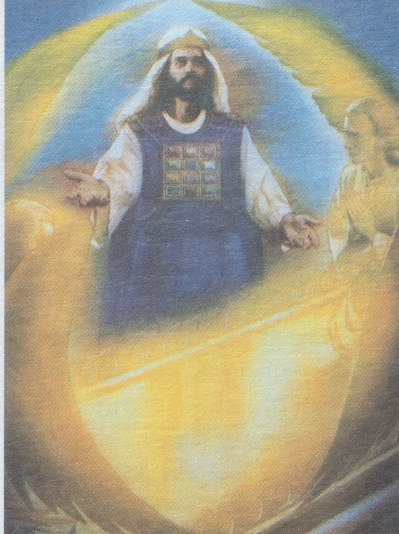
God's final goal is to purify or cleanse the universe from sin. Some individuals will be cleansed by fire. They cling to their sin. They fail to surrender their sin. Hardened in rebellion against God, they refuse to yield to His Lordship. In the presence of a Holy God, sin is combustible material. Our God is a consuming fire to sin wherever it is found (Hebrews 12:29). The fiery presence of God consumes sinners at the glorious brightness of His return.

Other individuals will be cleansed by blood. Today He invites us to come to Him. Today He invites us to accept His mercy. Today He desires to forgive our sins. Today He desires to change our lives. Today He longs for us to respond to the love that flows from an old rugged cross where the Saviour of the world, with blood-stained hands, was stretched out on a cross for us.

In light of the fact that we are living in the final moments of earth's history, would you like to respond to His gracious invitation to give your whole life to Him? If so, write Yes on the line below.



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