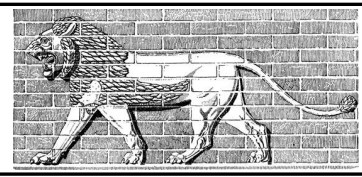


THE BOOK OF  
**DANIEL**  
 — Our God Reigns —



Part 19 — “The God Who Shuts the Mouths of Lions” — 9 October 2022

**Introduction: Individuals and Corporate Solidarity**

Scripture presents individuals as being associated with particular groups or corporate bodies. At the same time, these families, ethnic groups, or nations are often associated with a particular individual who is a representative of the whole and to whom is bound the fate of the other individuals within the corporate body.

Gen. 3:15—...*I will put enmity between you and the woman...between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*”

⇒ The term ‘offspring’ or ‘seed’ [Heb. - *zera*; Gk. *sperma*] can have both a singular and plural sense. This promise, which is often referred to as the protoevangelium (‘first gospel’), can therefore be understood to promise the coming of certain individuals as well as distinct bodies of which they will be the representative heads.

*Seed of the Serpent* → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_

*Seed of the Woman* → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Point:** As the people of the living God, we can trust that He will judge righteously and, in His timing, bring about our ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of our enemies.

**Daniel & the Den of Lions—Daniel 6:1-13**

**The Limits of the King’s Power (6:14-18)**

Observations

1. Daniel’s antagonists successfully leveraged governmental \_\_\_\_\_ in order to try to destroy him.  
 “...no injunction...that the king establishes can be changed.”
2. In spite of the king’s concern for Daniel, he did not have the \_\_\_\_\_ to deliver him and was even compelled to enact his punishment.  
 “be set his mind to deliver Daniel.”
3. The king seemed to believe that Daniel’s God did have the power to \_\_\_\_\_ him.  
 “May your God whom you serve continually, deliver you.”

“Although there is insufficient evidence to conclude that Darius truly believed in Yahweh God alone, his words seem to indicate that he had at least come to a point of esteeming Daniel’s God (probably as a result of Daniel’s life and witness.” —J. Paul Tanner

**Key Point:** Daniel’s ultimate hope for deliverance could not be found in a political \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Righteous Judgment of God (6:19-24)**

Observations

1. The deliverance of Daniel was a public \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s power.  
 “My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths”  
 ⇒ The phrase “his angel” (Ar. - *mal akeb*) used here is the same used by Nebuchadnezzar to describe the deliverance of Daniel’s friends from the fiery furnace, suggesting that their Deliverer and Daniel’s are one and the same (the preincarnate Christ)!  
Dan. 3:28—“Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Mesbakh, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants...”
2. Daniel’s deliverance was a public \_\_\_\_\_ of him before the king as well as his antagonists.  
 “I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king”
3. Having seen Daniel publicly vindicated, the king brought public \_\_\_\_\_ upon his antagonists.  
 “those...who had maliciously accused Daniel were...cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives.”

“The way in which the lions ferociously attacked the bodies of Daniel’s accusers is not recorded for the sake of shock but once again to demonstrate the miraculous nature of what happened. These were not lions that just happened not to be hungry one night. They were killers, and Daniel’s survival underscores the miraculous nature of God’s intervention.” —J. Paul Tanner

**Key Point:** God gave judgment \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel and \_\_\_\_\_ his antagonists, deeming them guilty and him innocent before Him.

## The King's Declaration of God's Power (6:25-28)

### Observations

1. The decree issued by Darius called upon the people to \_\_\_\_\_ the God of Daniel.  
"tremble and fear" "he is the living God"
2. The king's praise of God's sovereignty was similar to that of Nebuchadnezzar.

Dan. 4:34b	Dan. 6:26b
<i>for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;</i>	<i>for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end.</i>

3. The king specifically highlighted God's power to deliver in the \_\_\_\_\_ in which he himself was powerless.  
Dan. 3:27—*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.*"

**Key Point:** Over the course of his long life and under the reigns of multiple kings, Daniel lived as a faithful \_\_\_\_\_ to the sovereign power and personal presence of the Most High God.

"The point is that the omnipresent Yahweh Elohim is free to break into the *god space* of the Medes and Persians at will to demonstrate his power and proclaim his kingdom intentions—and all while "his city" lies shattered in ruins."—J. Paul Tanner

## Implications for Biblical Eschatology (Future Events)

- The righteous judgment of God will be manifested before all in the latter days.

*Because of their relationship to \_\_\_\_\_, God's people will ultimately be delivered from their enemies and will inherit the Kingdom that He will establish.*

Dan. 7:25-27—<sup>25</sup> *He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High...*<sup>26</sup> *But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end.* <sup>27</sup> *And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.*<sup>2</sup>

*Because of their relationship to the End-Time Antagonist (Antichrist), unbelievers will receive the righteous \_\_\_\_\_ of God.*

Rev. 19:11, 19-21—<sup>11</sup> *Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war...*<sup>19</sup> *And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.* <sup>20</sup> *And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.* <sup>21</sup> *And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.*

## Living Faithfully in "Babylon"

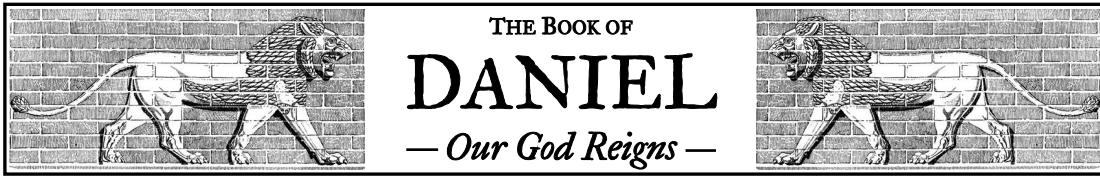
- We must remain vigilant because we have an \_\_\_\_\_ who seeks our discouragement and destruction.

1 Pet. 5:8-9—<sup>8</sup> *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.* <sup>9</sup> *Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*

- The Lion of the Tribe of Judah defends us and will grant to us to share in His \_\_\_\_\_ over our enemies.

Rev. 5:2-5—<sup>2</sup> *And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"*<sup>3</sup> *And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it,* <sup>4</sup> *and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.* <sup>5</sup> *And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."*

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*Seed of the Woman* → Messiah → Believers

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