

Tuesday 29th September 2020

Daniel 6:10 *“Now when Daniel learned that a decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened towards Jerusalem. Three times a day he got on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to God, just as he had done before”*

Daniel 7:1 *“In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.”*

Daniel of Judah captured by the Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar is forced marched to Babylon to live in servitude most of his life. It was the usual practice when the Babylonians conquered a state to take the most able people of the vanquished to maintain an intelligent and diligent civil service. Daniel and his three friends were singled out and underwent training for three years.

At that time Babylonians worshipped a false god which Daniel refused to accept. He faithfully prayed to God three times a day. He resisted the temptations of rich food from the king's table. This attitude got under the skin of the advisors to the king and they cunningly devised a plan to ensure Daniel was executed by being thrown to the lions. Captive lions were common in Babylonia.

God rewarded Daniel for his faithfulness by seeing that he was unharmed by the lions. Later God gave him the ability to interpret dreams which proved useful as he dealt with successive kings of Babylon.

We can only admire Daniel's fortitude and steadfastness in maintaining his faith. Can we follow his example? We should. Although there are rewards in this life there are infinitely more in the next.