A. Our Reputation can Create Enemies (vs. 4-9):

1. **Spoke** – The satraps and commissioners declared their strategy for destroying Daniel.
   
   a) Daniel was more than 80 years old at this time (539 B.C.); he was about 16 when he was taken captive 66 years earlier (605 B.C.) \[1\].
   
   b) God had honored Daniel for his faithfulness, so that he was practically the second ruler in the land. There were actually 124 persons involved in the leadership of the land: Darius the king, the three presidents (with Daniel as #1), and 120 princes. We see that Darius was so impressed with Daniel that he was planning to make him the official second ruler. The promotions of Daniel in Babylon are proof that a believer does not have to compromise to succeed (Matt. 6:33). \[2\]

2. **Will not find grounds of evidence** – No matter how hard they looked they endlessly could not find a legal bases to destroy Daniel and remove him from his job so they had to find another means to trap him.
   
   a) Ezekiel, his contemporary, makes mention of him as someone who is righteous (Ezek. 14:14,20) and wise (Ezek. 28:3). Ezekiel put him alongside historical characters such as Noah and Job.

3. **We can find** – They can legal conspire to trap Daniel only when it comes to Daniel obeying God.

4. **Spoke** – The satraps and commissioners after coming to an agreement declared by consensus that they were going to Darius to get a law designed to trap Daniel.

5. **Spoke** – There is no conclusive evidence that everyone agreed to this but this is what they said to Darius.

   a) When people are going to be corrupt they always have to try to convince as many people as they can to come with them.
6. **Assembled** – This word defines them as coming to Darius in a mob-like fashion implying collusion. This is a completed action, meaning that they were not going to change course from what they are doing until they completed their agenda.

**B. Trust God’s Ability (vs. 10):**

1. **Know** – Daniel completely understood everything the document said.
   1. **Was signed** – Daniel knew the king was firmly committed to what the contents of the law.

   a) Another important issue is touched upon in this verse. Daniel deliberately defied a law of the land. How can this action be reconciled with the biblical admonition to obey civil authority (e.g., Rom 13:1–2)? Scripture does indeed instruct believers to obey the government, but the Bible also teaches that there is a higher law—the law of God. Peter and the other apostles told the Jewish authorities, “We must obey God rather than men!” (Acts 5:29). There may be times when the law of the land and the law of God come into conflict. Corrie ten Boom broke the law of Germany when she hid Jews from the Nazis during World War II, but she would have broken a higher law had she not tried to prevent the murder of innocents. Today Christians are being called upon to make difficult ethical choices. As the world becomes more and more secular (and sinful), believers will increasingly find themselves taking stands that are unpopular and positions that may even violate the law of the land.[3]

   1. **Entered** – With full knowledge Daniel was determined to continue his practice of praying to God.
   2. **Pray** – When Daniel prayed he bowed before God demonstrating his humility and trust in God.
   3. **Pray** – When Daniel prayed it was a sincere time of worship.

   a) **“Faith.”** Daniel believed the Word, for he obeyed it and regulated his prayers by it. The prayer of the exiles was to be directed “toward their land,” and in facing toward Jerusalem Daniel showed respectful faith.

   b) **Worship.** Solomon prescribed “toward the city,” i.e., Jerusalem (Deut 12:5-7; I Chr 11:4-9; 13:1-14; 15:25-29; II Chr 3:1, 2; 5:1-14; 7:1-3. Cf. Jn 4:20-22; Acts 4:12). Daniel could not worship literally in the Holy City, but his posture showed that he wished to do so; and in spirit he did do so.

   c) **The ground of atonement by blood.** The “house ... built for my name” was the center of the sacrificial ritual. Daniel’s posture recognized that (cf. Heb 10:19-22).

   d) **Humility.** This is indicated by the marked emphasis on the kneeling posture (cf. Lk 18:13, 14).
e) **Regularity.** Three times a day (cf. Ps 55:16.17)
f) **Petition.** And prayed or and *kept on praying.* The word *ṣfaa* means “to bow in entreaty.”
g) **Thanksgiving.** Gave thanks, etc. (cf. Phil 4:6).
h) **Constancy.** As he did aforetime.[4]

1. **Give thanks** - Daniel was completely engrossed in a time of praise expressing gratitude to God for His excellent nature and His works.
2. **Before God** – Daniel viewed himself as worshipping God in His presence.

## C. Alone but not You are Condemned (vs. 16-18):

1. **Gave orders** – Darius, against his own wishes, commanded the appropriate individuals to cast Daniel into the Den of Lions.
2. **Cast** - The soldiers were determined to get Daniel and make sure he was in the Lion’s Den.

   a) A stone was placed over the opening of the den and sealed with the signet rings of the king and his nobles so that no one would dare attempt to rescue Daniel (“so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed”). Soft clay was attached to the chains draped over the stone, and the king and his nobles made their personal marks (seals) by pressing their rings into the clay. After the clay hardened, the chains could not be removed without breaking the seals. Surely no one would attempt to remove the chain containing the names of the king and some of his highest officials. Daniel was now in the den, and all possibility of escape was cut off.[5]

3. **Spoke** – Darius publically declared his respect for the Lord God whom Daniel worshipped.
4. **Your God** – Darius viewed Daniels God as belonging to Daniel and loyal to Daniel.
5. **Whom you constantly serve** - Darius knew that Daniel continuously gave reverence and ministered before God in such as way that he continually cultivated a sincere attitude of worship to God.
6. **Deliver** – Darius continuous desire was that the Lord God rescues Daniel from physical harm.

## D. Remain Faithful …. God Delivers!!! (vs. 19-23):
1. **Come near** – Darius hastily after being up most of the night if not all night, at dawn went quickly to the Lion’s Den.

2. **Cry out** - Darius loudly with sorrow in his voice (Daniel had become dear to him) called out for Daniel. He was not going to stop until he knew that Daniel had died. Darius acted as if he believed that Daniel’s God could rescue him. Daniels reputation was that significant and compelling.

3. **Spoke** - Darius shouted for Daniel like soldiers shouting loudly on a battle field.

4. **Said of Daniel** – When Darius spoke he declared that Daniel served a living God. Compared to all the idols that were in Babylon Darius was convinced that Daniel’s God is the living God.

5. **Servant** – Darius viewed Daniel as a very faithful performer of his duties to God.

6. **Whom you constantly serve** - Daniel so faithfully served God that it was very evident that he reverence God and like a farmer cultivated his worshipful relationship with God.

7. **Been able** - Darius asked Daniel if the living God he served was powerful to prevail over the strength of the lions.

   a) This experience illustrated for Darius the validity of faith in God and His power to control circumstances and deliver those who trust in Him. For 30 days Darius was addressed as God by the people in his realm (cf. v. 7). But Daniel served the true God, who did what Darius could never do: shut the mouths of lions to protect one who depended on Him. [6]

8. **Deliver** - Was the living God that Daniel served powerful enough to rescue him from the paws of the hungry lions.

9. **Daniel spoke to the king** – Daniel was determined that the king heard him.

10. **King who live forever** – Even though the king had to follow through and put Daniel in the Lion’s Den Daniel did not stop giving respect to the king.

11. **Sent and angel** – God was in a complete set condition to continuously provide a angel to guard him. Not sure if Daniel can actually see the angel like it was with the three Hebrew boys.

12. **Shut** – The angel was completely determined to keep the lions mouth shut. As powerful as the lions were they could not open their mouth even if they wanted to.

13. **Harm me** - The lions could not destroy him.

14. **I was innocent before Him** - God was continuously completely convinced that Daniel did not violate His standards. Daniel violated the king’s law but not the standards of God.

15. **Daniel committed no crime** – Daniel told the king he did not perform any actions that were in violation of any of the civil laws of God.

16. **The king was very pleased** - The king was in a completed state of joy and sheer delight.
17. **Gave orders** – Darius, commanded the appropriate individuals to remain completely committed to getting Daniel out of the Lion’s Den.

18. **Found** – When Daniel was examined not a scratch was found on him.

19. **He trusted in his God** – Daniel was continuously surrendered with a deep conviction in all that God is. His faith and complete surrender to God’s Word rescued him despite the evil that was prevalent around him.

a) **Daniel’s testimony creates his trial and determines the outcome.**

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