

Three Kings and some Lions

Four young men, from royal and noble families, were taken into exile and chosen to serve their new king, Nebuchadnezzar. They were bright and handsome, and preferred a vegetarian diet. The king had a disturbing dream, but what was it and what did it mean? Only Daniel had the answer.

Daniel's three friends, posted elsewhere in the empire, refused to bow down to an enormous gold statue, and were thrown into a huge furnace as their punishment. King Nebuchadnezzar was amazed to see them walking around in the fire, together with an angel, all unharmed.

Daniel interpreted another of the king's dreams, which warned him about the consequences of arrogance and pride. A year later, King Nebuchadnezzar became temporarily insane, eating grass like cattle, until he acknowledged that God is in charge of human affairs.

Some time later, the next king, Belshazzar, gave a banquet and used golden goblets that had been stolen from God's Temple. A mysterious hand wrote on the wall, and the king's days were numbered and his kingdom lost.

So what became of Daniel, under the next king, Darius?

He ended up in a lions' den overnight because he refused to stop praying three times a day. At dawn, the king hurried to the den and asked, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?". Daniel answered, "O King, live forever! My God sent his angel and he shut the mouths of the lions".

As Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Read the whole story in the book of Daniel in the Old Testament of the Bible.

Naomi Gordon-Smith
St Mary's Buriton