

Unsealing
DANIEL'S MYSTERIES

WITH MARK FINLEY

◆ Confidence in the Crisis ◆

6



REMEMBER AN EIGHT PROPHET



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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.

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 its roots and produces ugly fruit.

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

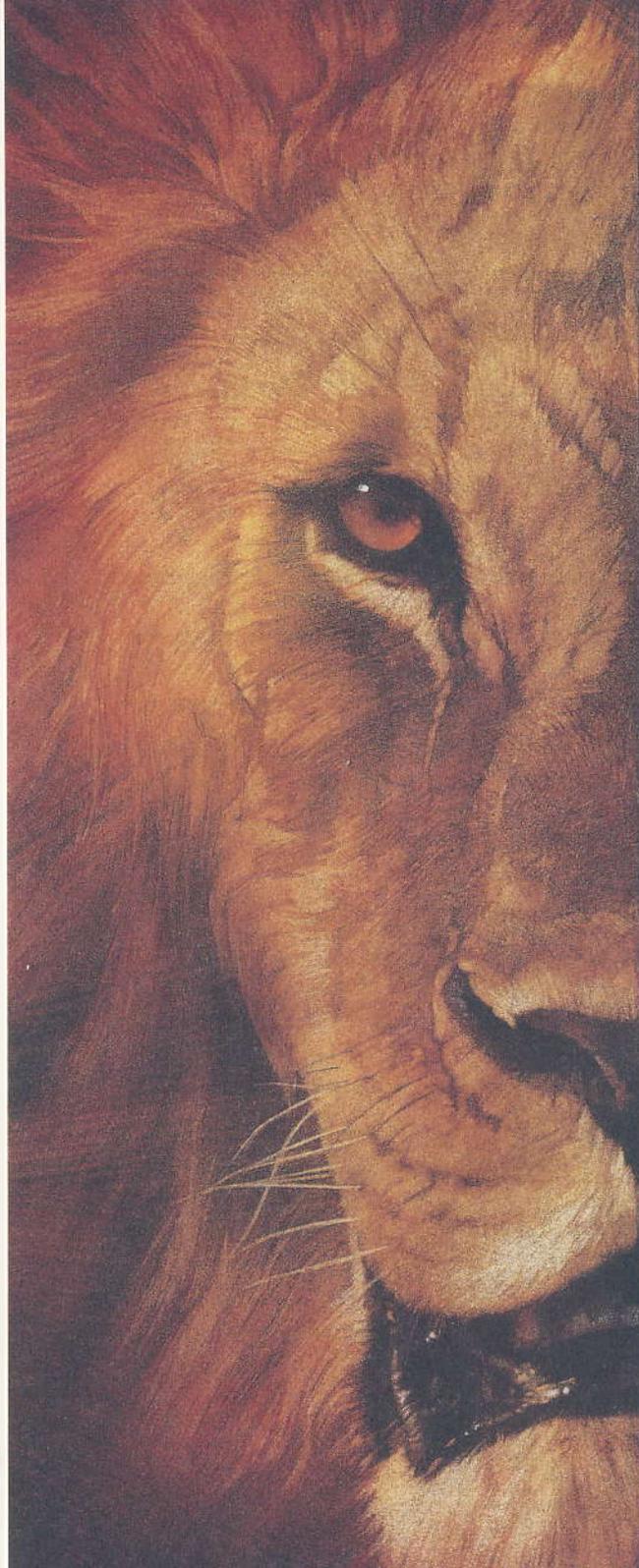
Daniel's final test revolved around the question of true and false worship. It centered in the counterfeit versus the genuine.

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.





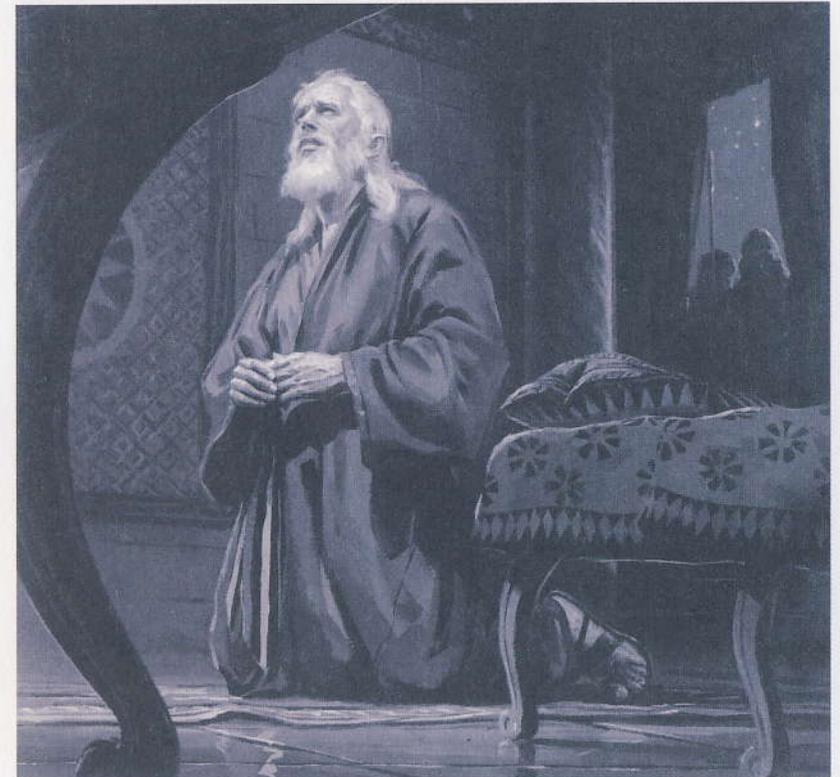
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5. When Daniel was cast into the lions' den, what statement did Darius make, indicating he, too, had confidence in Daniel's God? Daniel 6:16.
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Darius violated his own conscience; he knew that he was 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.

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The ultimate, final deliverance will occur at the second coming of Christ.

10. How does the apostle John describe this final deliverance? Revelation 19:11-19.

Pictured as a mighty conqueror streaming down the corridor of the sky, and as a general leading the armies of heaven, Jesus is revealed as our mighty Deliverer. He is "faithful and true." He keeps His word. In the last moments of time, He delivers His children. Daniel longed for that ultimate deliverance. He foresaw the day that all evil would be finally destroyed and God's kingdom would reign forever.

God specializes in the impossible. He delights in deliverance. The same God who promises to deliver this planet from the dominion of evil, promises to deliver you from Satan's evil clutches today. The same God who will restore this planet to its original purpose, desires to restore your life today. You can praise God today as the mighty Deliverer.