
FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Chapter 14:23-42

There was a great dragon which the Babylonians worshiped. "Look!" said the king to Daniel, "you cannot deny that this is a living god, so adore it." But Daniel answered, "I adore the Lord, my God, for he is the living God. Give me permission, O king, and I will kill this dragon without sword or club." "I give you permission," the king said. Then Daniel took some pitch, fat, and hair; these he boiled together and made into cakes. He put them into the mouth of the dragon, and when the dragon ate them, he burst asunder. "This," he said, "is what you worshiped." When the Babylonians heard this, they were angry and turned against the king. "The king has become a Jew," they said; "he has destroyed Bel, killed the dragon, and put the priests to death." They went to the king and demanded: "Hand Daniel over to us, or we will kill you and your family." When he saw himself threatened with violence, the king was forced to hand Daniel over to them. They threw Daniel into a lions' den, where he remained six days. In the den were seven lions, and two carcasses and two sheep had been given to them daily. But now they were given nothing, so that they would devour Daniel. In Judea there was a prophet, Habakkuk; he mixed some bread in a bowl with the stew he had boiled, and was going to bring it to the reapers in the field, when an angel of the Lord told him, "Take the lunch you have to Daniel in the lions' den at Babylon." But Habakkuk answered, "Babylon, sir, I have never seen, and I do not know the den!" The angel of the Lord seized him by the crown of his head and carried him by the hair; with the speed of the wind, he set him down in Babylon above the den. "Daniel, Daniel," cried Habakkuk, "take the lunch God has sent you." "You have remembered me, O God," said Daniel; "you have not forsaken those who love you." While Daniel began to eat, the angel of the Lord at once brought Habakkuk back to his own place. On the seventh day the king came to mourn for Daniel. As he came to the den and looked in, there was Daniel, sitting there! The king cried aloud, "You are great, O Lord, the God of Daniel, and there is no other besides you!" Daniel he took out, but those who had tried to destroy him he threw into the den, and they were devoured in a moment before his eyes.