

Reader Script/ DANIEL, BIBLE AS LITERATURE

- 1/NARRATOR:** Daniel was an exile. Although taken from his home country when he was a young man, Daniel never forgot his God, and his God never forgot Daniel. God even gave Daniel a place of honor in a foreign land.
- 2/GOVERNOR (*angrily*):** Daniel, Daniel, Daniel! That's *all* we hear. I'm sick of hearing his praises. Daniel is a JEW, a slave brought here in captivity, but he is OUR boss.
- 3/GOVERNOR (*annoyed*):** I'm a governor, and that's an important job. After all, there are only 120 governors, but "*Daniel*," the King's favorite, is above me!
- 5/GOVERNOR:
(*thoughtfully*)** I've heard that the King Darius may put Daniel in charge of the whole empire.
- 2/GOVERNOR (*furiously*):** WHAT! NO WAY! That really makes me MAD! It's not fair! It's not right! A Hebrew slave will be in charge of OUR country!
- 4/GOVERNOR (*jubilantly*):** I'VE GOT IT! We'll trap him! You know how he likes to pray to that God of his--well--listen--
- 3/GOVERNOR (*happily*):** His "prayers" will bring about his fall! I think I'll "pray" that I'll be the one to take his place.
- 4/GOVERNOR (*sweetly*):** King Darius, you are such a "*wonderful*," "*powerful*," "*wise*," "*just*," and "*kind*" ruler that we have made a plan to honor you.
- 6/KING DARIUS (*pleased*):** Oh really? I will hear your plan.

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- 5/GOVERNOR:**
(business-like) Give orders that for thirty days no person may request anything from any god or man except you. That will make everyone aware of your power.
- 6/KING DARIUS:** That sounds like a fine plan!
- 2/GOVERNOR *(smugly)*:** Anyone who violates this order is to be thrown into a pit of lions.
- 6/KING DARIUS *(slowly)*:** Hmmmm—thrown into the lion's pit—hmmmm. That's a terrible death, but it *would* show my power, and no one is likely to challenge *this* law!
- 3/GOVERNOR *(quickly)*:** That's right, and anyone who did disobey would deserve to die. Sign the paper and the plan will be law, a law which can't be changed.
- 1/NARRATOR:** The law was signed, and all the people were warned of the punishment.
- 4/GOVERNOR *(friendly)*:** Daniel, have you heard of the king's new law? It says if anyone asks of anything of a god or man other than our king—
- 5/GOVERNOR:**
(interrupted) —that he will be thrown into a pit of lions!
- 2/GOVERNOR:**
(suspiciously) Let's watch him carefully.
- 3/GOVERNOR:**
(curiously) What do you think he'll do?