

Tuesday 22nd February 2022

Daniel 6: 10 *“Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened towards Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before”*

Perhaps Daniel was out of town on King Nebuchadnezzar's business when his friends emerged unscathed from a test of their faith in the fiery furnace. He is not mentioned at this time but many years later under the Babylonian king Darius he faced a severe test of his faith.

As usual the test arose from jealousy amongst the king's advisors. Even though an exile from Judah he was valued by successive kings of Babylonia because of his administrative skills and ability to interpret dreams particularly the king's dreams.

But the king was persuaded against his wishes to issue a decree banning worship to any God other than those prescribed by the state. Daniel steadfastly and openly defied the decree by praying three times a day. As a result when he was thrown into the lions' den no harm came to him. Would we have survived this test? Do we meet and conquer much lesser tests in our daily lives. Only with faith in God.