

¹حَسَنَ عِنْدَ دَارِيُوسَ أَنْ يُؤَلَّى عَلَى الْمَمْلَكَةِ مِئَةً وَعِشْرِينَ مَرُزْبَانًا يَكُونُونَ عَلَى الْمَمْلَكَةِ كُلِّهَا.² وَعَلَى هَؤُلَاءِ ثَلَاثَةُ وُزَرَاءَ أَحَدُهُمْ دَانِيَالُ، لِئُودِّيَ الْمَرَارَةُ إِلَيْهِمُ الْحِسَابَ فَلَا تُصِيبَ الْمَلِكُ خَسَارَةً.³ فَقَاقَ دَانِيَالُ هَذَا عَلَى الْوُزَرَاءِ وَالْمَرَارَةِ، لِأَنَّ فِيهِ رُوحًا قَاضِلَةً. وَفَكَرَ الْمَلِكُ فِي أَنْ يُؤَلِّيَهُ عَلَى الْمَمْلَكَةِ كُلِّهَا.⁴ ثُمَّ إِنَّ الْوُزَرَءَ وَالْمَرَارَةَ كَانُوا يَطْلُبُونَ عِلَّةً يَجِدُونَهَا عَلَى دَانِيَالٍ مِنْ جِهَةِ الْمَمْلَكَةِ، فَلَمْ يَفِدْرُوا أَنْ يَجِدُوا عِلَّةً وَلَا دَنْبًا، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ أَمِينًا وَلَمْ يُوْجَدْ فِيهِ خَطَأٌ وَلَا دَنْبٌ.⁵ فَقَالَ هَؤُلَاءِ الرِّجَالُ، لَا تَجِدْ عَلَى دَانِيَالٍ هَذَا عِلَّةً إِلَّا أَنْ تَجِدَهَا مِنْ جِهَةِ بَشَرِيَّةِ إِلَهِهِ.⁶ حِينَئِذٍ اجْتَمَعَ هَؤُلَاءِ الْوُزَرَءُ وَالْمَرَارَةُ عِنْدَ الْمَلِكِ وَقَالُوا لَهُ، أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ دَارِيُوسُ، عِشْ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ. إِنَّ جَمِيعَ وُزَرَءِ الْمَمْلَكَةِ وَالسَّجَنِ وَالْمَرَارَةِ وَالْمُشِيرِينَ وَالْوَلَاةَ قَدْ تَسَاوَرُوا عَلَى أَنْ يَصْغُوا أَمْرًا مَلَكِيًّا وَتَسُدُّوا نَهْيًا، بَأَنَّ كُلَّ مَنْ يَطْلُبُ طَلِبَتَهُ حَتَّى ثَلَاثِينَ يَوْمًا مِنْ إِلَهٍ أَوْ إِنْسَانٍ إِلَّا مِنْكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ، يُطْرَحُ فِي جُبِّ الْأَسُودِ. فَتَبَّتِ الْآنَ إِلَهِي أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ، وَأَمُضِ الْكِتَابَةَ لِكَيْ لَا تَتَغَيَّرَ كَسْرِيَّةُ مَادِي وَقَارِسَ الَّتِي لَا تُنْسَخُ.⁹ لِأَجْلِ ذَلِكَ أَمَضَى الْمَلِكُ دَارِيُوسَ الْكِتَابَةَ وَاللَّهْيَ.¹⁰ فَلَمَّا عَلِمَ دَانِيَالُ بِأَمْضَاءِ الْكِتَابَةِ ذَهَبَ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ، وَكُوَاهُ مَفْخُوحَةٌ فِي غُلْبَتِهِ تَحُو أَوْرُشَلِيمَ، فَجَثَا عَلَى رُكْبَتَيْهِ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ فِي الْيَوْمِ، وَصَلَّى وَحَمَدَ قُدَّامَ إِلَهِهِ كَمَا كَانَ يَفْعَلُ قَبْلَ ذَلِكَ.¹¹ فَاجْتَمَعَ حِينَئِذٍ هَؤُلَاءِ الرِّجَالُ فَوَجَدُوا دَانِيَالًا يَطْلُبُ وَتَصْرَعُ قُدَّامَ إِلَهِهِ.¹² فَتَقَدَّمُوا وَتَكَلَّمُوا قُدَّامَ الْمَلِكِ فِي تَهْيِ الْمَلِكِ، أَلَمْ تُمَضَّ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ نَهْيًا بَأَنَّ كُلَّ إِنْسَانٍ يَطْلُبُ مِنْ إِلَهٍ أَوْ إِنْسَانٍ حَتَّى ثَلَاثِينَ يَوْمًا إِلَّا مِنْكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ يُطْرَحُ فِي جُبِّ الْأَسُودِ. فَأَجَابَ الْمَلِكُ، الْأَمْرُ صَحِيحٌ كَسْرِيَّةُ مَادِي وَقَارِسَ الَّتِي لَا تُنْسَخُ.¹³ حِينَئِذٍ قَالُوا لِلْمَلِكِ، إِنَّ دَانِيَالَ الَّذِي مِنْ بَنِي سِيْنِي يَهُودًا لَمْ يَجْعَلْ لَكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ اعْتِبَارًا وَلَا لِلِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَمَضَيْتَهُ، بَلْ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ فِي الْيَوْمِ يَطْلُبُ طَلِبَتَهُ.¹⁴ فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ الْمَلِكُ هَذَا الْكَلَامَ اغْتَاطَ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ جِدًّا، وَجَعَلَ قَلْبُهُ عَلَى دَانِيَالٍ لِيُنَجِّيَهُ، وَاجْتَهَدَ إِلَى غُرُوبِ الشَّمْسِ لِيُنْفِذَهُ.¹⁵ فَاجْتَمَعَ أُولَئِكَ الرِّجَالُ إِلَى الْمَلِكِ وَقَالُوا، أَعْلَمْ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ أَنَّ بَشَرِيَّةَ مَادِي وَقَارِسَ هِيَ أَنْ كُلَّ تَهْيٍ أَوْ أَمْرٍ يَصْغُهُ الْمَلِكُ لَا يَتَغَيَّرُ.¹⁶ حِينَئِذٍ أَمَرَ الْمَلِكُ فَأَحْضَرُوا دَانِيَالًا وَطَرَحُوهُ فِي جُبِّ الْأَسُودِ. وَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ لِدَانِيَالٍ، إِنَّ إِلَهَكَ الَّذِي تَعْبُدُهُ دَائِمًا هُوَ يُنَجِّيكَ.¹⁷ وَأَيْنِي يَحْجَرُ وَوَضِعَ عَلَى قَمِ الْجُبِّ وَخَتَمَهُ الْمَلِكُ

¹It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;²And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.³Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.⁴Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.⁵Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.⁶Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.⁷All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.⁸Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.⁹Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.¹⁰Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he

يَحَاتِمِهِ وَخَاتِمَ غُطَمَائِهِ، لِئَلَّا يَتَغَيَّرَ الْقَضُ فِي دَانِيَالَ.¹⁸ جَيَّيْذُ مَضَى الْمَلِكُ إِلَى قَصْرِهِ وَبَاتَ صَائِمًا، وَلَمْ يُؤْتَ قُدَّامَهُ بِسَرَّارِيهِ وَطَارَ عَنْهُ تَوْمُهُ.¹⁹ ثُمَّ قَامَ الْمَلِكُ بَاكِراً عِنْدَ الْفَجْرِ وَذَهَبَ مُسْرِعاً إِلَى جُبِّ الْأَسُودِ.²⁰ فَلَمَّا اقْتَرَبَ إِلَى الْجُبِّ نَادَى دَانِيَالَ بِصَوْتِ أَسِيفٍ، يَا دَانِيَالَ عَبْدَ اللَّهِ الْحَيِّ، هَلْ إِلَهَكَ الَّذِي تَعْبُدُهُ دَائِماً قَدِرَ عَلَى أَنْ يُنَجِّيكَ مِنَ الْأَسُودِ.²¹ فَتَكَلَّمَ دَانِيَالَ مَعَ الْمَلِكِ، يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ، عِشْ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ. إِلَهِي أَرْسَلَ مَلَائِكَهُ وَسَدَّ أَفْوَاهَ الْأَسُودِ فَلَمْ تُضَرَّنِي، لِأَنِّي وَجِدْتُ بَرِيئاً قُدَّامَهُ وَقُدَّامَكَ أَيُّضاً أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ. لَمْ أَفْعَلْ ذَنْباً.²³ جَيَّيْذُ قَبَحَ الْمَلِكُ بِهِ، وَأَمَرَ بِأَنْ يُضَعَدَ دَانِيَالَ مِنَ الْجُبِّ. فَأَضَعَدَ دَانِيَالَ مِنَ الْجُبِّ وَلَمْ يُوجَدْ فِيهِ صَرَرٌ، لِأَنَّهُ آمَنَ بِالْهِ. ²⁴ فَأَمَرَ الْمَلِكُ فَأَخْضَرُوا أَوْلِيكَ الرَّجَالَ الَّذِينَ اشْتَكَوْا عَلَى دَانِيَالَ وَطَرَحُوهُمْ فِي جُبِّ الْأَسُودِ هُمْ وَأَوْلَادُهُمْ وَنِسَاءُهُمْ. وَلَمْ يَصِلُوا إِلَى اسْقَلِ الْجُبِّ حَتَّى بَطَلَسَتْ بِهِمِ الْأَسُودُ وَسَخَقَتْ كُلَّ عِظَامِهِمْ.²⁵ ثُمَّ كَتَبَ الْمَلِكُ دَارْيُوسَ إِلَى كُلِّ الشُّعُوبِ وَالْأُمَمِ وَالْأَلْسِنَةِ السَّاكِنِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ كُلِّهَا، لِيَكُنَّ سَلَامُكُمْ.²⁶ مِنْ قِبَلِي صَدَرَ أَمْرٌ بِأَنَّهُ فِي كُلِّ سُلْطَانٍ مَمْلَكَتِي يَرْتَعِدُونَ وَيَخَافُونَ قُدَّامَ إِلَهِ دَانِيَالَ، لِأَنَّهُ هُوَ إِلَهُ الْحَيِّ الْقَيُّومِ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، وَمَلَكوْهُ لَنْ يَزُولَ وَسُلْطَانُهُ إِلَى الْمُنْتَهَى.²⁷ هُوَ يُنَجِّي وَيُنْقِذُ وَيَعْمَلُ الْآيَاتِ وَالْعَجَائِبِ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَفِي الْأَرْضِ. هُوَ الَّذِي تَجَّى دَانِيَالَ مِنْ يَدِ الْأَسُودِ.²⁸ فَتَجَحَّ دَانِيَالَ هَذَا فِي مَلِكِ دَارْيُوسَ وَفِي مُلْكِ كُورَشَ الْفَارِسِيِّ.

kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.¹¹ Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.¹² Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.¹³ Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.¹⁴ Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.¹⁵ Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.¹⁶ Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.¹⁷ And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night

fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.¹⁹ Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.²⁰ And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?²¹ Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.²² My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.²³ Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.²⁴ And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.²⁵ Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.²⁶ I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.²⁷ He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh

Daniel 6

signs and wonders in heaven and in earth,
who hath delivered Daniel from the power
of the lions.²⁸ So this Daniel prospered in
the reign of Darius, and in the reign of
Cyrus the Persian.