

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

¹حَسَنَ عِنْدَ دَارِيُوسَ أَنْ يُؤَلَّى عَلَى الْمَمْلَكَةِ مِئَةً وَعِشْرِينَ مَرْتَبًا يَكُونُونَ عَلَى الْمَمْلَكَةِ كُلِّهَا.²وَعَلَى هَؤُلَاءِ ثَلَاثَةَ وُزَرَاءَ أَخَذَهُمْ دَانِيَالُ، لِتُؤَدِّي الْمَرَاتِبَةُ إِلَيْهِمُ الْحِسَابَ فَلَا تُصِيبَ الْمَلِكُ خَسَارَةً.³فَقَاقَ دَانِيَالُ هَذَا عَلَى الْوُزَرَاءِ وَالْمَرَاتِبَةِ، لِأَنَّ فِيهِ رُوحًا قَاضِلَةً. وَفَكَرَ الْمَلِكُ فِي أَنْ يُؤَلَّى عَلَى الْمَمْلَكَةِ كُلِّهَا.⁴ثُمَّ إِنَّ الْوُزَرَءَ وَالْمَرَاتِبَةَ كَانُوا يَطْلُبُونَ عَلَيْهِ يَجِدُونَهَا عَلَى دَانِيَالٍ مِنْ جِهَةِ الْمَمْلَكَةِ، فَلَمْ يَقْدِرُوا أَنْ يَجِدُوا عَلَيْهِ وَلَا ذَنْبًا، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ أَمِينًا وَلَمْ يُوْجَدْ فِيهِ خَطَأٌ وَلَا ذَنْبٌ.⁵فَقَالَ هَؤُلَاءِ الرِّجَالُ، لَا تَجِدْ عَلَى دَانِيَالٍ هَذَا عَلَيْهِ إِلَّا أَنْ تَجِدَهَا مِنْ جِهَةِ سَرِيعَةِ إِلَهِهِ.⁶جَبْتَنِيذُ اجْتَمَعَ هَؤُلَاءِ الْوُزَرَءَ وَالْمَرَاتِبَةَ عِنْدَ الْمَلِكِ وَقَالُوا لَهُ، أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ دَارِيُوسُ، عِشْ إِلَى الْآبِدِ.⁷إِنَّ جَمِيعَ وُزَرَءِ الْمَمْلَكَةِ وَالسَّخَنِ وَالْمَرَاتِبَةِ وَالْمُشِيرِينَ وَالْوَلَاةَ قَدْ تَشَاوَرُوا عَلَى أَنْ يَصْعُوا أَمْرًا مَلَكِيًّا وَيُسَدِّدُوا تَهْيَأًا، بِأَنَّ كُلَّ مَنْ يَطْلُبُ طَلِبَةً حَتَّى ثَلَاثِينَ يَوْمًا مِنْ إِلَهٍ أَوْ إِنْسَانٍ إِلَّا مِنْكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ، يُطْرَحُ فِي جُبِّ الْأَسْوَدِ.⁸قَبَّيْتُ الْآنَ التَّهْيَأَ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ، وَأَمَضَ الْكِتَابَةَ لِيَكُنِيَ لَا تَتَغَيَّرُ كَسَرِيعَةِ مَادِي وَقَارِسَ النَّبِيِّ لَا تُنْسَخُ.⁹لَأَجَلَ ذَلِكَ أَمَضَى الْمَلِكُ دَارِيُوسُ الْكِتَابَةَ وَاللَّهْيَ.¹⁰فَلَمَّا عَلِمَ دَانِيَالُ بِأَمْضَاءِ الْكِتَابَةِ ذَهَبَ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ، وَكُوَاهُ مَفْتُوحَةٌ فِي غُلْبَتِهِ نَحْوَ أُورُشَلِيمَ، فَجَنَّا عَلَى رُكْبَتَيْهِ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ فِي الْيَوْمِ، وَصَلَّى وَحَمَدَ قُدَّامَ إِلَهِهِ كَمَا كَانَ يَفْعَلُ قَبْلَ ذَلِكَ.¹¹فَاجْتَمَعَ جَبْتَنِيذُ هَؤُلَاءِ الرِّجَالُ فَوَجَدُوا دَانِيَالًا يَطْلُبُ وَيَتَضَرَّعُ قُدَّامَ إِلَهِهِ.¹²فَتَقَدَّمُوا وَتَكَلَّمُوا قُدَّامَ الْمَلِكِ فِي تَهْيِئَةِ الْمَلِكِ، أَلَمْ تُمَضَّ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ تَهْيَأًا بِأَنَّ كُلَّ إِنْسَانٍ يَطْلُبُ مِنْ إِلَهٍ أَوْ إِنْسَانٍ حَتَّى ثَلَاثِينَ يَوْمًا إِلَّا مِنْكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ يُطْرَحُ فِي جُبِّ الْأَسْوَدِ. فَاجَابَ الْمَلِكُ، الْأَمْرُ صَحِيحٌ كَسَرِيعَةِ مَادِي وَقَارِسَ النَّبِيِّ لَا تُنْسَخُ.¹³جَبْتَنِيذُ قَالُوا لِلْمَلِكِ، إِنَّ دَانِيَالَ الَّذِي مِنْ بَنِي سَبْيِ يَهُودَا لَمْ يَجْعَلْ لَكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ اغْتِيَارًا وَلَا لِللَّهْيِ الَّذِي أَمَضَيْتَهُ، بَلْ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ فِي الْيَوْمِ يَطْلُبُ طَلِبَتَهُ.¹⁴فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ الْمَلِكُ هَذَا الْكَلَامَ اغْتَاظَ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ جِدًّا، وَجَعَلَ قَلْبُهُ عَلَى دَانِيَالٍ لِيُنَجِّيَهُ، وَاجْتَهَدَ إِلَى غُرُوبِ الشَّمْسِ لِيُنْقِذَهُ.¹⁵فَاجْتَمَعَ أَوْلِيَاكَ الرِّجَالُ إِلَى الْمَلِكِ وَقَالُوا، اغْلَمْ أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ أَنَّ سَرِيعَةَ مَادِي وَقَارِسَ هِيَ أَنْ كُلَّ تَهْيٍ أَوْ أَمْرٍ يَصْعُهُ الْمَلِكُ لَا يَتَغَيَّرُ.¹⁶جَبْتَنِيذُ أَمَرَ الْمَلِكُ فَاحْضَرُوا دَانِيَالَ وَطَرَحُوهُ فِي جُبِّ الْأَسْوَدِ. وَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ لِدَانِيَالٍ، إِنَّ إِلَهَكَ الَّذِي تَعْبُدُهُ دَائِمًا هُوَ يُنَجِّيكَ.¹⁷وَأَتَى بِحَجَرٍ وَوَضَعَ عَلَى قِمِّ الْجُبِّ وَخَتَمَهُ الْمَلِكُ

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

بِحَاثِمِهِ وَحَاتِمِ عُظْمَائِهِ، لَيْلًا يَتَغَيَّرُ الْقَصْدُ فِي دَانِيَالَ.¹⁸ جِيئَ بِدَانِيَا إِلَى الْقَصْرِ وَبَاتَ صَائِمًا، وَلَمْ يَأْكُلْ قُدَامَهُ بِسَرَّارِيهِ وَطَارَ عَنْهُ تَوَهُُّهُ.¹⁹ ثُمَّ قَامَ الْمَلِكُ بَاكِراً عِنْدَ الْفَجْرِ وَدَهَبَ مُسْرِعاً إِلَى جُبِّ الْأَسُودِ.²⁰ فَلَمَّا اقْتَرَبَ إِلَى الْجُبِّ نَادَى دَانِيَالُ بِصَوْتِ أَسِيفٍ، يَا دَانِيَالُ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ الْحَيِّ، هَلْ إِلَهَكَ الَّذِي تَعْبُدُهُ دَائِماً قَدِرَ عَلَى أَنْ يُنَجِّبَكَ مِنَ الْأَسُودِ.²¹ فَتَكَلَّمَ دَانِيَالُ مَعَ الْمَلِكِ، يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ، عِشْ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ. إِلَهِي أَرْسَلَ مَلَائِكَةً وَسَدَّ أَفْوَاهَ الْأَسُودِ فَلَمْ تَضُرَّنِي، لِأَنِّي وَجَدْتُ بَرِيئاً قُدَامَهُ وَقُدَامَكَ أَيْضاً أَيُّهَا الْمَلِكُ. لَمْ أَفْعَلْ دَبّاً.²³ جِيئَ بِدَانِيَا إِلَى الْجُبِّ وَأَمَرَ أَنْ يُصْعَدَ دَانِيَالُ مِنَ الْجُبِّ. فَاصْعَدَ دَانِيَالُ مِنَ الْجُبِّ وَلَمْ يُوْجَدْ فِيهِ ضَرَرٌ، لِأَنَّهُ آمَنَ بِإِلَهِهِ.²⁴ فَأَمَرَ الْمَلِكُ فَأُخْصِرُوا أَوْلِيَاءَ الْمَلِكِ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا عَلَى دَانِيَالَ وَطَرَحُوهُمْ فِي جُبِّ الْأَسُودِ هُمْ وَأَوْلَادُهُمْ وَنِسَاءُهُمْ. وَلَمْ يَصِلُوا إِلَى أَسْفَلِ الْجُبِّ حَتَّى تَبَلَّسَتْ بِهِمُ الْأَسُودُ وَسَخَفَتْ كُلَّ عِظَائِهِمْ.²⁵ ثُمَّ كَتَبَ الْمَلِكُ دَارْيُوسُ إِلَى كُلِّ الشُّعُوبِ وَالْأُمَمِ وَالْأَلْسِنَةِ السَّاكِنِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ كُلِّهَا، لِيَكُنْ سَلَامُكُمْ.²⁶ مِنْ قِبَلِي صَدَرَ أَمْرٌ بِأَنَّهُ فِي كُلِّ سُلْطَانٍ مَمْلَكَتِي يَزْتَعِدُونَ وَيَخَافُونَ قُدَامَ إِلَهِ دَانِيَالَ، لِأَنَّهُ هُوَ الْإِلَهُ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، وَمَلَكَوْنُهُ لَنْ يَزُولَ وَسُلْطَانُهُ إِلَى الْمُنْتَهَى.²⁷ هُوَ يُنَجِّي وَيُنْقِذُ وَيَعْمَلُ الْآيَاتِ وَالْعَجَائِبِ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَفِي الْأَرْضِ. هُوَ الَّذِي نَجَّى دَانِيَالَ مِنْ يَدِ الْأَسُودِ.²⁸ فَتَجَحَّ دَانِيَالُ هَذَا فِي مُلْكِ دَارْيُوسَ وَفِي مُلْكِ كُورَشَ الْفَارِسِيِّ.

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

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.