

Call to Worship

Blessed Assurance

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

(refrain)

R This is my story, This is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, This is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

(refrain)

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Responsive Reading

From Psalm 100

Leader

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all the earth!

Response

Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before His presence with singing.

Leader

Know that the Lord, He is God;
It is He who made us, and not we ourselves;

Response

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Leader

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.

Response

Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

Unison

For the Lord is good;
His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all generations!

Loyal

Then 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 (loyal), neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Daniel 6:4

Daniel, as a young man, was taken from his home and country and forced to live in a foreign country as a slave. Daniel and many of his friends, all bright young men – the best of Judah – were forced to be educated and trained in the ways of Babylon.

It was to be their job to manage and administer the affairs of the day-to-day business throughout the kingdom. By imposing these responsibilities upon their slaves, the Babylonians could spend their time at leisure activities.

Daniel, surrounded by luxury and having attained a high rank in the Babylonian government, remained loyal to the Living God and His purposes. And this loyalty was no secret. Everybody knew about it.

Some men who were envious of Daniel's position and authority, plotted to have him convicted of a made up law. By playing on the weakness of pride in King Darius, the envious men got the king to make a law stating that no praying was permitted for 30 days. If anyone wanted anything they must ask it of the king.

Of course, Daniel could not just stop praying to God. Daniel's relationship with God was deeply committed and good. Daniel spent time praying and seeking God at least three times a day. And even though Daniel did not make a big deal about it, everyone knew he was doing it.

The envious men testified against Daniel. And the king got mad. Not at Daniel, the king was mad at himself for being duped by these envious men. Daniel was his friend, and a loyal servant.

However, the law was the law. So Daniel was thrown into the lion's den, for this was the consequence of the law. There he stayed all night long. And King Darius and the lions both fasted – that means nobody ate anything (most importantly nobody ate Daniel)!

In the morning, King Darius went to the den and was pleased to find that God had sent an angel to keep the mouths of lions shut. Daniel was taken from the den and the envious men were tossed into the den. Even before the envious men hit the ground, the lions – who were quite hungry after a night of fasting – ate up the envious men.

And, King Darius made a new law to honor the Living God.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26