

In the Lions' Den

“Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel...These men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God. So they went as a group to the king...”

Daniel 6:4a, 5, ESV

Imagine: You are Daniel. You belong to a small religious minority in a country with a powerful majority. You stay true to your faith and earn your way to a top job. This enrages your jealous colleagues. So they devise a trap to destroy you.

They pass a law against “blasphemy.” All it takes is an accusation that you insulted the majority religion to earn a death sentence. Yet despite the cost, you continue to pray to the true God.

For Pakistani Christians, it is all too easy to put themselves in Daniel’s shoes.

Imagine: You are washing your families’ clothes in a river when a ruthless mob descends, led by your angry neighbor, shouting for your death. They claim you insulted Islam. They beat and brutally drag you to jail. Years crawl by as you agonize, alone, unjustly imprisoned, while outside your family must hide from mobs.

All because a neighbor wanted to settle a score and Pakistan’s [blasphemy laws](#) provided the perfect weapon.

One accusation becomes a death sentence. The lions’ den becomes a Pakistani prison, where [Asia Bibi](#), [Shafqat Emmanuel and his wife Shaqufta Kausa](#), and other Christians have been jailed for alleged blasphemy.

A few have been freed by persistent prayers and appeals. Others suffer behind bars, still awaiting trial - praying for rescue.

As we read through Daniel 6, we may have, at some point, occupied each role:

The jealous co-worker obsessed with comparison.

The faithful believer following God whatever the cost.

The flattered friend ensnared by ego.

Most of us have been all three. But today we are invited to pray for modern-day Daniels.

Christians alone in jail, pursued by hostile crowds demanding we be executed for “blasphemy”.

Dear Lord,

You are the Rescuer and Judge. Give us the boldness to follow You. Protect our brothers and sisters in Pakistan and other countries with “blasphemy” laws. Provide courageous lawyers and just judge. Set Pakistani Christians free. May their time in prison become a powerful testimony to Your love, forgiveness, and truth.