

“Prohibiting Prayer: The Daniel Decree” Sample Page #3

(Play Track #3 of the soundtrack.)

Scene three: Outside Daniel's house

Actions during the next paragraphs: *The Scribe and his son arrive at Daniel's house, and run into Daniel in the street, as he was headed home also. Daniel greets him affectionately, and then places a hand on his son's shoulder as he compliments him. Seeing Sadalbari's worried face, Daniel pulls aside the scribe to ask him what is the matter, and they converse. The Scribe confides his worries, and Daniel listens, then reassures the man with some wise words. When they finish speaking, Daniel goes up on stage into his house to pray. The two princes come onto the scene, and stand aside away from the extras in the street to watch Daniel to see if he will pray after all. Daniel takes his place in his window and kneels to pray. We hear a short vocal portion of the song "May Your Glory Fill This Place" as Daniel continues to worship. The two princes hug each other in excitement, and then they leave. After a few moments, the scribe and his son also leave to go home, as again the scribe's face is lined with worry.*

Main Narrator: As it happened, we encountered Daniel in the street near his house, and he greeted me with a smile as his eyes lit upon me. He affectionately greeted Homam as well, and told me that he was growing up to be a strong and handsome young man. Seeing my worried expression, the old man took me to the side and asked with true concern what was troubling me. Making sure no-one could overhear me, I began to explain the situation; about the plot hatched by the two other advisors, and how the king had signed their decree into law. I told him of the effort by prince Artabazus to bribe me into entering false and condemning text into the book of records, and then urged Daniel to flee into the countryside, perhaps to visit a relative, where he would not be observed in his usual habit of praying... at least until the time allotted in the decree was passed. Daniel thanked me for my concern for his well-being... and for the suggestion, which had much merit. If the law were over some other matter, he explained, he might take my advice. But because it involved his worship of Jehovah, he did not have the luxury of avoiding the trouble. To do so, he said, would amount to fearing man more than God, and to say, in effect, that he did not trust the Lord to take care of him. It would be a form of denial of his faith, to flee... and he could not do it. "Don't be afraid, Sadalbari," he reassured me. "The Lord will honor and protect those that have faith and obey Him. I experienced more than one great miracle when I served under Nebuchadnezzar, and until God is finished with me on this earth, nothing can happen to me against His will. And I will pray tonight that He will show you favor for your efforts to spare me the danger, and keep you safe from the anger of Prince Artabazus." I told him that I wished I had his faith, but the cost of serving this God seemed to be too high. "If He is the God of the universe," he said in parting, "would not the cost of not serving Him be much higher?" And with that, he bid my son and I a good night and went into his house to pray.

It was about that time, that the two princes Artabazus and Mazaeus came around the corner, and positioned themselves on the other side of the street, watching Daniel's window with evil anticipation. Pulling my son back into the shadows of the wall once more, we watched as Daniel came to the window and knelt as usual to pray.

(We hear a short vocal section of the original song "May Your Glory Fill This Place" as he prays.)