# Lesson 16 Daniel 14 Bel and the Dragon

(Faith) In the story of the god, Bel, Daniel proves to the king that the idol of Bel   
was a fraud perpetuated by the priests of Bel.

Daniel 14:

10 When the king went with Daniel into the temple of Bel,

11 the priests of Bel said, “See, we are going to leave.   
 You, O king, set out the food and prepare the wine; then shut the door and seal it with your ring.

12 If you do not find that Bel has eaten it all when you return in the morning,   
 we are to die; otherwise Daniel shall die for his lies against us.”

13 They were not perturbed, because under the table they had made a secret entrance   
 through which they always came in to consume the food.

14 After they departed the king set the food before Bel, while Daniel ordered his servants to bring some  
 ashes, which they scattered through the whole temple; the king alone was present.   
 Then they went outside, sealed the closed door with the king’s ring, and departed.

15 The priests entered that night as usual, with their wives and children,   
 and they ate and drank everything.

16 Early the next morning, the king came with Daniel.

17 “Are the seals unbroken, Daniel?” he asked. And Daniel answered, “They are unbroken, O king.”

18 As soon as he had opened the door, the king looked at the table and cried aloud,   
 “You are great, O Bel; there is no deceit in you.”

19 But Daniel laughed and kept the king from entering.   
 He said, “Look at the floor and consider whose footprints these are.”

20 “I see the footprints of men, women, and children!” said the king.

21 In his wrath the king arrested the priests, their wives, and their children.   
 They showed him the secret door by which they used to enter to consume what was on the table.

22 The king put them to death, and handed Bel over to Daniel, who destroyed it and its temple.

Matthew 27:62-66

62 The next day, the one following the day of preparation,  
 the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate

63 and said, “Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said,   
 ‘After three days I will be raised up.’

64 Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day,   
 lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead.’   
 This last imposture would be worse than the first.”

65 Pilate said to them, “The guard is yours; go secure it as best you can.”

66 So they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard."

A. What similarities do you see in the measures Daniel took to expose the fraud to the measures taken by the chief priests and elders in the failed attempt to prove the Resurrection of Jesus was a fraud?

B. What was the difference in the outcome?

(Hope) Daniel exposed the fraud of the dragon worshiped by the king and the people for which, he was condemned to the lion’s den for six days. St. Paul speaks of the importance of the Resurrection to our faith and hope of our own resurrection.

Daniel 14:40-42

40 On the seventh day the king came to mourn for Daniel.   
 As he came to the den and looked in, there was Daniel, sitting there.

41 The king cried aloud, “You are great, O Lord, the God of Daniel, and there is no other besides you!”

42 He brought Daniel out, but those who had tried to destroy him he threw into the den,   
 and they were devoured in a moment before his eyes.

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

12 But if Christ is preached as raised from the dead,   
 how can some among you say there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then neither has Christ been raised.

14 And if Christ has not been raised, then empty [too] is our preaching; empty, too, your faith.

15 Then we are also false witnesses to God, because we testified against God that he raised Christ,   
 whom he did not raise if in fact the dead are not raised.

16 For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised,

17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins.

18 Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all.

A. How does the unharmed presence of Daniel in the lion’s den compare to the empty tomb of Jesus as evidence of faith in the Resurrection of Jesus and our hope of the resurrection of our own bodies?

B. How, can the words of St Paul be turned back on the worshipers of the dragon?