

Daniel 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

Analysis

The prince of eunuchs' response reveals the tension between personal favor and professional duty. He fears 'my lord the king' seeing the youths worse than their peers, resulting in his own execution ('make me endanger my head'). This shows the real cost of standing for convictions—others risk consequences for helping us. His legitimate concern demonstrates that faith sometimes requires us to request what puts others at risk, requiring wisdom and genuine divine direction rather than presumption.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings exercised absolute authority; failure in royal service often meant death. Court officials lived in constant fear of royal displeasure. Ashpenaz's concern was realistic—if Daniel's group appeared inferior after special dietary treatment, the king would view this as Ashpenaz's failure to properly train the hostages. Capital punishment for administrative failures was common in ancient empires.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Ashpenaz's legitimate fear challenge us to consider how our convictions might endanger others who help us?
2. What wisdom do we need when our faith stance requires others to risk themselves on our behalf?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה אָנָּי יְאָמַר שְׁרֵי אֲמָר
said And the prince of the eunuchs unto Daniel I fear
H559 H8269 H5631 H1840 H3373 H589 H853

וְאַתָּה מְאַכֵּלְךָ מָאתָן אֲדֹנָן
my lord the king who hath appointed your meat
H113 H4428 H4487 H853 H3978 H853

וְאַתָּה מְשִׁתֵּיכָ מִלְּמָה אֲשֶׁר פָּנִים מִלְּמָה
and your drink for why should he see your faces
H4960 H834 H4100 H7200 H853 H6440

כְּנִילָךְ מִן זָעַפְ יִם אֲשֶׁר פְּיָלְדִים than the children which are of your sort
worse liking H4480 H3206 H834 H1524

וְתַּחֲבֹתָ מִן רָאֵשׁ אֲתָּה לְמָלָה:
then shall ye make me endanger my head the king
H2325 H853 H7218 H4428

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