

Daniel 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah,

Analysis

Daniel's approach to Melzar (likely a title: steward or guardian) shows wisdom in working within the system. Rather than demanding rights, he proposes a test. This demonstrates spiritual wisdom: seeking alternative solutions that honor both conscience and authority. Daniel doesn't rebel against the system but finds a way to maintain convictions while respecting structure. The specific approach to the steward rather than Ashpenaz shows strategic thinking in finding the right person with authority to help.

Historical Context

Melzar appears to be a title (Hebrew: ham-meltzar, 'the steward') rather than a proper name, referring to the immediate supervisor over Daniel's group. This official had day-to-day oversight while Ashpenaz held overall authority. Ancient bureaucracies had hierarchies; Daniel wisely approached the appropriate level for his request. Working through proper channels while maintaining convictions models institutional engagement without compromise.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Daniel's respectful approach within the system challenge both rebellious resistance and passive capitulation?
2. What wisdom can we learn from Daniel about finding creative solutions that honor both conscience and legitimate authority?

Interlinear Text

שָׁר מִנָּה אָשֶׁר הַמֶּלֶץ רָאָה דָּנִי אֶל וַיֹּאמֶר
Then said **Daniel** ^{H413} **to Melzar** ^{H834} **had set** **whom the prince**
^{H559} ^{H1840} ^{H4453} ^{H4487} ^{H8269}

וַעֲזַרְיָהּ: מִיִּשְׁאֵל לְחַנְיָהּ דָּנִי אֶל עַל הַסָּרִיסִים
of the eunuchs ^{H5921} **Daniel** **Hananiah** **Mishael** **and Azariah**
^{H5631} ^{H1840} ^{H2608} ^{H4332} ^{H5838}

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