

Daniel 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

Analysis

Daniel's proposal continues: 'let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat.' He proposes objective comparison—appearance would testify to wisdom or folly of the request. The appeal to visual evidence shows confidence that God blesses obedience with tangible results. The word 'countenance' emphasizes overall health and vitality, not merely weight. Faith trusts God to vindicate His ways through real-world demonstration.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern culture valued healthy appearance as indicating divine blessing and proper living. Court officials needed to appear vigorous and capable, reflecting well on the king's provision. Physical appearance was considered evidence of lifestyle wisdom. Daniel's confidence that simple biblical diet would produce superior health challenged Babylonian assumption that royal luxury produced the best results.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Daniel's confidence in observable vindication encourage us that godly living produces demonstrable benefits?
2. What does the appeal to empirical comparison teach us about not fearing honest examination of faith's practical outcomes?

Interlinear Text

וַתֵּרֶא ה	לִפְנֵי יְיָ	וַיִּמְרֹאֶה	וַיִּמְרֹאֶה
and as thou seest	before	Then let our countenances	Then let our countenances
H7200	H6440	H4758	H4758
הַיְלָדִים	הָאֵל כֹּל יִמ	אֵת פֶּתֶיבִּי ג	הֶמָּה לְ
of the children	that eat	H853 meat	of the king's
H3206	H398	H6598	H4428
וַתֵּרֶא ה	עִשׂ ה	עִם עֲבָדָיו:	
and as thou seest	deal	H5973 with thy servants	
H7200	H6213	H5650	

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