

Daniel 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

Analysis

Melzar's consent—"So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days"—shows God's providence. The steward took a risk based on Daniel's reasonable proposal. The word 'proved' (Hebrew: *nasah*, test, try) indicates a legitimate trial period. God's work in Melzar's heart overcame fear of consequences, demonstrating divine sovereignty in opening doors for faithful obedience. This consent allowed Daniel to maintain conscience while fulfilling Babylon's requirements.

Historical Context

Melzar's agreement represented significant personal risk. If the youths' health declined, he could face punishment for deviating from royal orders. His consent shows God's work in hearts, overcoming natural self-preservation. The ten-day trial was unusual—most supervisors would reject subordinates questioning royal provision. Divine favor made the improbable possible, demonstrating God's care for those maintaining faithfulness in difficult circumstances.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Melzar's willingness to consent despite risk encourage us that God can open seemingly closed doors?
2. What does this teach us about God working in unbelievers' hearts to enable our faithful obedience?

Interlinear Text

וְיִשְׁתַּחַת	לְבָבְךָ	רְאֵתָה	בְּיָמָיו	וְיִתְגַּדֵּל	יָמָן
So he consented	H8085	to them in this matter	H1697	and proved	H3117

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them ten

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