

Daniel 1:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

Analysis

The results vindicate faith: 'at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.' God honored obedience with observable superiority—not merely equality but superior health. This demonstrates a consistent biblical principle: God's ways, though they may seem restrictive, produce better outcomes than worldly alternatives. The comparison 'than all' emphasizes complete vindication; no Babylonian-diet youth matched the Hebrew-diet group.

Historical Context

The superior health despite simple diet defied expectations in a culture valuing rich foods. This miracle was subtle—not supernatural signs but natural process producing unexpected results. God blessed their faithfulness within the created order He designed. The comparison would have been obvious to all observers, creating testimony to Yahweh's blessing on covenant faithfulness. Their success couldn't be attributed to human wisdom but divine providence.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's blessing of obedience with observable superiority encourage us that His ways truly are best?
2. What does this teach us about God sometimes choosing to vindicate faith through natural means that clearly exceed expectations?

Interlinear Text

וְבָ	מְרָאֵ	יְמִ	וּמְקָצָ	תִּ	וְבָ
And at the end	days	of ten	appeared	their countenances	fairer
H7117	H3117	H6235	H7200	H4758	H2896
וְבָ	מְרָאֵ	יְמִ	וּמְקָצָ	תִּ	וְבָ
and fatter	in flesh	H4480	H3605	than all the children	which did eat
H1277	H1320			H3206	H853
וְבָ	מְרָאֵ	יְמִ	וּמְקָצָ	תִּ	וְבָ
meat	of the king's				
H6598	H4428				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 23:25 (Parallel theme): And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.

Psalms 37:16 (Parallel theme): A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.

Proverbs 10:22 (Parallel theme): The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

