

Daniel 1:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

Analysis

The outcome—"Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse"—shows complete victory. The test became permanent policy. God's vindication of faithfulness convinced pagan authority to accommodate conscience. This represents the ideal outcome: maintaining convictions while fulfilling institutional requirements, with authority's blessing. The removal of wine (also potentially offered to idols) shows comprehensive triumph over compromise. God rewards faithfulness with enlarged freedom to obey.

Historical Context

Wine in ancient Near East was standard beverage, often safer than water in urban areas. Wine dedicated to gods in libation ceremonies created the same conscience problem as meat. Melzar's permanent policy change protected Daniel's group for the remaining training period (likely nearly three years). This unprecedented accommodation demonstrated God's favor and established precedent for future requests. The simple diet proved sustainably superior throughout their education.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's transformation of a trial into permanent accommodation encourage us that He rewards proven faithfulness with enlarged freedom?
2. What does this teach us about the power of demonstrated results in convincing others to accommodate our convictions?

Interlinear Text

H1961	Thus Melzar	בָּמֶלֶץ רַיִם	נִשְׁאָת אֶת פָּתַחְתֶּם	וְיִהְיֶה	
H4453		H5375	H853	H6598	H3196
	took away		of their meat	and the wine	
that they should drink	and gave	מִשְׁתַּיְחָה מִן לְבָם זָרָעָנִים:	וַיְנַתֵּהוּ	לְבָם	זָרָעָנִים:
H4960		H5414	H0	H2235	

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 1:12 (Parallel theme): Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

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