

Daniel 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

Analysis

The 'daily provision of the king's meat' represents Babylon's generosity and the temptation it creates. Royal food was both honor and snare—honor because it elevated these captives, snare because it compromised dietary law and likely included food offered to idols. The phrase 'nourishing them three years' shows systematic preparation for service. Worldly systems offer provision and advancement, testing whether believers will compromise convictions for comfort and opportunity.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern royal courts maintained elaborate cuisines. The king's table represented privilege and obligation—eating the king's food created a bond of loyalty. Daniel 1:8 indicates this food violated Jewish dietary law, either through prohibited items (pork, unclean animals), improper slaughter, or dedication to idols. Accepting it would signal cultural and religious capitulation to Babylonian norms.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the king's provision represent the world's offer of comfort and advancement in exchange for compromise?
2. What does Daniel's later refusal (v. 8) teach us about recognizing seemingly generous offers that require violating conscience?

Interlinear Text

מִפְתָּח	בַּיּוֹם	וְ	בַּיּוֹם	וְ	יִמְעַן	לְבָם	בַּמְלָךְ	דְּבָר	בַּמְלָךְ	לְבָם	יִמְעַן
appointed		H0	And the king	provision	them a daily	them a daily					H0
H4487			H4428	H1697	H3117	H3117					
שְׁנַיִם	וְ	לְגַדֵּל	מְשִׁיחַת	וְ	מִשְׁאָת	וְ	בַּמְלָךְ	וְ	בַּמְלָךְ	וְ	בַּמְלָךְ
meat	And the king	and of the wine	which he drank	so nourishing	years						
H6598	H4428	H3196	H4960	H1431	H8141						
שְׁלַוְתָּה	לְפָנֵי	בַּמְלָךְ	לְפָנֵי	בַּמְלָךְ	לְפָנֵי	וְ	שְׁלַוְתָּה	וְ	שְׁלַוְתָּה	וְ	שְׁלַוְתָּה
them three	that at the end	thereof they might stand	before	And the king							
H7969	H7117	H5975	H6440	H4428							

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 1:19 (Kingdom): And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

1 Kings 10:8 (Parallel theme): Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.

Daniel 1:8 (Kingdom): But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

