

Daniel 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

Analysis

God's bringing Daniel 'into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs' demonstrates divine providence working through pagan authorities. God can turn hearts toward His servants (Prov. 21:1), creating favor even in hostile environments. This wasn't Daniel's manipulation but God's sovereign grace, preparing the way for Daniel's request about food. The phrase 'tender love' (Hebrew: racham, compassion) shows deep affection beyond mere professional relationship.

Historical Context

Court officials in ancient Near Eastern empires held dangerous positions—failure meant death. Ashpenaz's favor toward Daniel risked personal jeopardy if these Hebrew youths failed their training. God's work in his heart overcame natural self-preservation, demonstrating supernatural influence. This favor parallels Joseph's experience in Egypt (Gen. 39:21) and foreshadows Esther's favor (Esther 2:9, 17).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's granting favor with pagan officials encourage us that He can open doors in hostile environments?
2. What does this divine favor teach us about preparing hearts before making requests, through prayer rather than merely persuasive speech?

Interlinear Text

לפָנֵי	לְבָרְכָמָם	יְמִם	לִפְנֵי	לְבָרְכָמָם	יְמִם	לִפְנֵי
had brought	Now God	H853	Daniel	into favour	and tender love	with
H5414	H430		H1840	H2617	H7356	H6440
the prince	of the eunuchs					
H8269	H5631					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 16:7 (Parallel theme): When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Genesis 39:21 (Parallel theme): But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Psalms 106:46 (Parallel theme): He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives.

1 Kings 8:50 (Parallel theme): And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:

Nehemiah 2:4 (References God): Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

Acts 7:10 (Parallel theme): And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Psalms 4:3 (References God): But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.

Nehemiah 1:11 (Parallel theme): O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

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