

Daniel 10:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb.

Analysis

Daniel's continued physical weakness: 'And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb.' The message's weight produces renewed prostration and speechlessness. This demonstrates that even with angelic reassurance and strengthening, the revelation's magnitude overwhelms. The inability to speak shows complete human inadequacy before divine revelation—Daniel literally has no words. This pattern appears throughout prophetic experience: Ezekiel made speechless (Ezekiel 3:26), Zechariah struck dumb (Luke 1:20), John overwhelmed by Revelation's visions (Revelation 1:17). The repeated cycles of strengthening and renewed weakness emphasize that sustained prophetic ministry requires continual divine enabling, not single empowerment.

Historical Context

Prophetic experience throughout Scripture involves repeated cycles of overwhelming revelation, divine strengthening, renewed weakness, and further enabling. This prevents prophets from claiming personal capacity or treating revelation casually. Ancient Near Eastern oracles often involved ecstatic states producing confident pronouncements; biblical prophecy produces humble dependence, emphasizing message's divine origin rather than prophet's personal capacity. Daniel's advanced age (probably mid-80s) and the vision's scope (covering centuries of future history) contributed to overwhelming response. The physical toll of revelation (weakness, speechlessness, need for repeated

strengthening) validated its supernatural character—this wasn't theatrical performance but genuine encounter requiring divine grace for survival.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why do prophets require repeated strengthening rather than single empowerment for sustained ministry?
2. What does Daniel's speechlessness teach about human inadequacy before divine revelation?
3. How does the physical toll of revelation validate its supernatural origin?

Interlinear Text

וּבְדִבְרֵי י'	עַמִּי י'	כְּדִבְרֵי יָם	הָאֵל לָהּ	נָתַתִּי	פָּנַי
And when he had spoken	H5973	such words	H428	unto me I set	my face
H1696		H1697		H5414	H6440
אֶרְצָה	וְנָאֵלְמָתִי:				
toward the ground	and I became dumb				
H776	H481				

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:20 (Word): And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

Ezekiel 24:27 (Parallel theme): In that day shall thy mouth be opened to him which is escaped, and thou shalt speak, and be no more dumb: and thou shalt be a sign unto them; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Daniel 10:9 (Word): Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.

Daniel 8:18 (Parallel theme): Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright.

Ezekiel 33:22 (Parallel theme): Now the hand of the LORD was upon me in the evening, afore he that was escaped came; and had opened my mouth, until he came to me in the morning; and my mouth was opened, and I was no more dumb.