

Daniel 2:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain;
and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

Analysis

The execution order extends to Daniel: "And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain." Despite Daniel's faithful service and previous excellence (chapter 1), he faces death alongside pagan diviners. This illustrates how God's people often suffer consequences of others' failures—righteous Daniel endangered by Chaldeans' inability. Yet this apparently unjust situation provides opportunity for demonstrating God's saving power and vindicating His servant.

The phrase "they sought Daniel and his fellows" indicates Daniel wasn't present at the initial confrontation—perhaps ill, traveling, or simply not summoned. This detail shows divine providence; had Daniel been present initially, he might have responded immediately, preventing the dramatic crisis that heightened the eventual revelation's impact. God's timing is perfect—He allows situations to develop to the point where His intervention becomes unmistakable. Quick solutions sometimes deny opportunities for greater glory.

Spiritually, this teaches that faithfulness doesn't guarantee exemption from hardship. Daniel's excellent service didn't prevent persecution. Yet God uses trials to display His power and advance His purposes. Believers shouldn't expect immunity from suffering but should trust God's sovereignty to use even unjust persecution for redemptive purposes. This points to Christ, the righteous one who suffered with transgressors (Isaiah 53:12), bearing consequences of others' sin to accomplish salvation.

Historical Context

Daniel and his companions, though trained in Babylonian wisdom, remained distinct through their covenant faithfulness (chapter 1). Yet legally they were classified with other wise men, making them vulnerable to the king's decree despite their superior knowledge and moral character. This reflects the precarious position of God's people in hostile cultures—they may serve faithfully and excellently, yet remain vulnerable to persecution. Daniel's experience encouraged exilic communities and continues encouraging believers in hostile contexts today.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does Daniel's endangered despite faithful service teach us about how righteousness doesn't guarantee immunity from persecution?
2. How should understanding God's sovereign timing—allowing crisis to develop before intervening—increase our patience during trials?
3. In what ways does Daniel suffering with guilty Chaldeans prefigure Christ suffering with transgressors to accomplish redemption?

Interlinear Text

וְדָתָ א	נָפֶקַת	וְחִכְמֵי א	לְהִתְקַטֵּל:	וַיִּבְעוּ
And the decree	went forth	that the wise	men should be slain	and they sought
H1882	H5312	H2445	H6992	H1156
דָּנִי אֵל	וְחִבְרֵי וְהִי	לְהִתְקַטֵּל:		
Daniel	and his fellows	men should be slain		
H1841	H2269	H6992		

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