

Daniel 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

Analysis

Daniel inquires about the execution: "He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king?" This question seeks information and wisdom. "Hasty" (Aramaic: *machtsephah*, ܡܚܝܬܐ) means urgent or harsh—Daniel asks why such severe decree issued so suddenly. His question demonstrates that proper response to authority includes seeking to understand reasoning, not blind compliance. Respectful inquiry differs from rebellious challenging; Daniel seeks facts to respond appropriately.

"Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel" shows that respectful questions can elicit helpful information. Arioch explains the situation, giving Daniel context needed to seek solution. This models how wisdom gathers information before acting. Proverbs teaches that answering before hearing is folly (Proverbs 18:13); wise persons seek understanding before responding. Daniel's inquiry created opportunity that hostile response would have foreclosed.

Spiritually, this teaches that faith and wisdom work together. Trusting God doesn't mean abandoning practical intelligence or refusing to gather information. Daniel combined prayer (verse 18) with prudent inquiry, demonstrating that dependence on God includes using wisdom He provides. This points to Christ who, though divinely omniscient, asked questions to teach and engage others. God's sovereignty doesn't negate human responsibility to think carefully and act wisely.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern culture emphasized honor and shame. Respectful inquiry maintained Arioch's honor while gathering needed information. Daniel's approach—combining respect for authority with appropriate questions—navigated cultural expectations successfully. His wisdom influenced later Jewish communities facing hostile powers, teaching them to engage authorities respectfully while maintaining covenant faithfulness. This balanced approach continues guiding believers in hostile contexts today, showing how to honor governing authorities (Romans 13:1-7) while ultimately obeying God (Acts 5:29).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Daniel's respectful inquiry demonstrate the difference between appropriate questions and rebellious challenging of authority?
2. What does Arioch's helpful response teach us about how respect and wisdom can create opportunities that hostility would foreclose?
3. In what ways does this scene show that trusting God includes using practical intelligence and gathering information?

Interlinear Text

מָה	עַל	מֶלֶךְ	אֵל	שְׁלִיטָא	אַרְיֹן	וְאָמַר	עָנָה
Why	H5922	the king	H1768	captain	H746	and said	He answered
H4101		H4430		H7990		H560	H6032
מַלְאָכָא	אֵין	מֶלֶךְ	קִדְּםָא	מִן	מְהֵרָצָפָה	דְּתִּירָא	
made the thing	H116	the king	H6925	from	so hasty	is the decree	
H4406		H4430		H4481	H2685	H1882	
לְדָנְיָאֵל:	אַרְיֹן	הוּדָע	ע				
to Daniel	Arioch	known					
H1841	H746	H3046					

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