

Daniel 2:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

Analysis

Daniel takes bold action: "Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation." His request for "time" seems ironic—the Chaldeans were accused of stalling (verse 8), yet Daniel requests delay. The difference: Daniel promises definite delivery ("that he would shew"), whereas Chaldeans offered excuses. Daniel's confidence stems from faith in God's revelation, not manipulative stalling. This demonstrates the difference between faithful patience and faithless delay.

Daniel's boldness in approaching the king models appropriate risk-taking rooted in faith. Requesting audience with an enraged king who just ordered mass execution required courage. Yet Daniel trusted God's sovereignty—if God wanted him to reveal the dream, God would grant audience. Faith produces courage to act when circumstances seem unfavorable but God's purposes require action. This contrasts with presumption (acting without divine guidance) and cowardice (refusing to act despite divine leading).

Daniel's promise to provide interpretation demonstrates confidence in God's provision. He doesn't know the dream yet, but trusts God will reveal it. This illustrates faith—trusting God's future provision while taking present action. Abraham left Ur not knowing his destination (Hebrews 11:8); Daniel requested time before receiving revelation. Faith moves forward based on God's character,

not complete information. This points to Christ who trusted Father's provision perfectly, even unto death, confident in resurrection God would accomplish.

Historical Context

Requesting personal audience with ancient Near Eastern kings, especially angry ones, was dangerous. Court protocol restricted access; approaching unbidden could mean death (Esther 4:11). Yet Daniel's previous excellent service (chapter 1) and God's providential favor enabled access. His boldness resulted from both faith and wisdom—he had legitimate standing in court, and God provided opportunity. This combination of faith and wisdom, providential positioning and personal courage, enabled Daniel to act at the critical moment.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Daniel's request for time differ from the Chaldeans' stalling, and what does this teach about faithful patience versus faithless delay?
2. What does his boldness in approaching an enraged king teach us about faith-rooted courage that takes appropriate risks for God's purposes?
3. In what ways does Daniel's promise before receiving revelation demonstrate faith that trusts God's future provision while taking present action?

Interlinear Text

וְדָנִיֵּאל
Then Daniel
H1841

עָלָה
went in
H5954

וַיִּבְעַר
and desired
H1156

מִן
of
H4481

לְמֶלֶכָּא:
the king
H4430

דִּי י
H1768

זְמַן
him time
H2166

יִתֵּן
that he would give
H5415

לֵיהּ
H0

וּפְשָׁרָא
the interpretation
H6591

לְהַחֲזִי
and that he would shew
H2324

לְמֶלֶכָּא:
the king
H4430

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