

Daniel 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

Analysis

Daniel immediately involves his community: "Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions." Rather than attempting solo spirituality, Daniel engages his faithful friends. The phrase "made the thing known" shows transparency—he shares both crisis and opportunity. This models Christian community—believers facing trials should involve fellow believers in prayer and support, not attempting isolated faith. God designed His people for mutual encouragement and intercession.

These three friends (Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego in Babylonian names) shared Daniel's covenant faithfulness from chapter 1. Their previous unity in refusing defiling food prepared them for this crisis. Long-term faithful relationships enable effective partnership during trials. Spiritual friendships built during ordinary times prove invaluable during emergencies. Daniel's wisdom in cultivating such relationships demonstrates that faithful living includes investing in godly community.

Theologically, this previews the church. Individual believers need the body; corporate prayer accomplishes what isolated prayer cannot (Matthew 18:19-20). The early church faced crises through united prayer (Acts 4:23-31). Daniel's pattern of involving covenant friends points to Christ gathering disciples, sharing ministry with them, and teaching corporate prayer (Lord's Prayer uses "our" not "my"). Faithful Christianity is never merely individualistic but always involves covenant community.

Historical Context

Daniel and his three friends maintained their relationship from initial deportation (605 BC) through decades of service. Their covenant bond, forged in youth and tested repeatedly, enabled this moment of crisis partnership. Jewish communities in exile similarly maintained strong communal ties, gathering for prayer, study, and mutual support. This pattern influenced early Christian communities who met in homes for prayer, teaching, and fellowship. Daniel's model of faithful friendship continues guiding believers in building life-sustaining Christian community.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does Daniel immediately involving his friends teach us about the importance of Christian community during personal crises?
2. How does their long-term faithful relationship demonstrate that spiritual friendships built in ordinary times prove crucial during emergencies?
3. In what ways does this pattern of covenant friends praying together prefigure the church's corporate prayer and mutual support?

Interlinear Text

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| וְאַזְרָא הַמִּישָׁא ל | לִמְנְגָה אָזְלָה | לְבֵית הַדָּנִי אֶל אֶזְרָא |
| Then | Daniel | to his house |
| H116 | H1841 | H1005 |
| went | | |
| H236 | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| to Hananiah | | |
| H2608 | | |
| | | |
| Mishael | | |
| H4333 | | |
| | | |
| and Azariah | | |
| H5839 | | |
| | | |
| מִבָּר וְהִ | מִלְּתָא א | הַזְּעָן |
| his companions | and made the thing | known |
| H2269 | H4406 | H3046 |

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