

Daniel 2:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

Analysis

Daniel's prayer of thanksgiving reveals the dream's content: "I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter." The phrase "God of my fathers" emphasizes covenant continuity—the same God who revealed Himself to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob now reveals mysteries to Daniel. This covenant faithfulness encourages believers; God who proved faithful to previous generations remains faithful to current ones.

Daniel attributes everything to God: "hast given," "hast made known." He takes no personal credit, recognizing that revelation came entirely from divine grace. The plural pronouns ("we desired," "made known unto us") include his praying companions, demonstrating that God answers corporate prayer and that Daniel shares credit with his friends. This models humility and community—refusing personal glory, acknowledging that spiritual success always involves God's grace and others' partnership.

The dual emphasis on "wisdom and might" reveals God's comprehensive provision. "Wisdom" (Aramaic: *chokmah*, חִכְמָה) means intelligence and understanding—God gave Daniel insight to comprehend the revelation. "Might" (Aramaic: *gevurah*, גְּבוּרָה) means power and strength—God gave courage to speak before the king.

Believers need both understanding and boldness; God provides both. This points to Christ who embodied perfect wisdom and power, and who through the Spirit imparts both to His people (1 Corinthians 1:24, 2 Timothy 1:7).

Historical Context

Jewish prayer tradition emphasized thanksgiving and praise alongside petition. Daniel's response models proper sequence—petition in crisis (verse 18), thanksgiving for answer (verse 23), then action (verse 24). This pattern influenced Jewish liturgy and Christian worship. The practice of beginning prayer with praise ("God of my fathers") and ending with thanksgiving established precedent for structured prayer that acknowledges God's character, presents needs, and celebrates His faithfulness. Daniel's example taught exilic communities and continues guiding Christian prayer today.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does Daniel's immediate thanksgiving teach us about proper response to answered prayer—gratitude before utilizing the answer?
2. How does his attribution of wisdom and might entirely to God model the humility that refuses personal glory for spiritual success?
3. In what ways does including his companions with plural pronouns demonstrate that spiritual victories should be shared rather than claimed individually?

Interlinear Text

לְ הָאֱלֹהִים אֲבֹתָיִךָ מְהֵרָא וּמְשִׁיבָחָא אֲנִי יְיָ	H0	thee O thou God	H426	of my fathers	H2	thank	H3029	thee and praise	H7624	I	H576	H1768
הוֹדַעְתָּנִי וְכַעַן לִי יְהוָה בְּרַחֲמֵי וְגִבּוֹרֶתָא חֲכָמָתָא		me wisdom	H2452	and might	H1370	who hast given	H3052	unto me now	H3705	and hast made known	H3046	
מַלְכָּא מַלְּתָא דִּי מִנְּךָ דִּי בְּעֵי יָנָא דִּי	H1768	what we desired	H1156	of thee	H4481	matter	H4406	unto us the king's	H4430			
הוֹדַעְתָּנִי:		and hast made known	H3046									

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 2:18 (References God): That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Exodus 3:15 (References God): And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

Isaiah 12:1 (Resurrection): And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

Psalms 50:14 (References God): Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:

Psalms 25:14 (Parallel theme): The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Matthew 11:25 (Parallel theme): At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

Luke 10:21 (Parallel theme): In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Amos 3:7 (References God): Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Daniel 1:17 (References God): As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Revelation 1:1 (References God): The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: