

Daniel 2:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.

Analysis

Daniel's concern extends beyond personal deliverance: "Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation." His plea "Destroy not" demonstrates compassion for pagan colleagues who couldn't help themselves. Though these were the same men who failed and whose failure endangered Daniel, he intercedes for their lives. This models Christ-like mercy—seeking others' welfare, even enemies' or competitors' welfare.

Daniel's request to be brought before the king shows confidence in God's revelation. He doesn't need further preparation or hesitate; God's revelation provides complete assurance. Yet he acts through proper channels—working with Arioch rather than bypassing authority. This demonstrates wisdom in combining spiritual confidence with cultural sensitivity and respect for governmental structures. Bold faith doesn't require rudeness or disrespect for protocol.

Theologically, Daniel prefigures Christ the mediator who stands between God and humanity, preventing destruction through revelation and intercession. As Daniel's revelation saved Babylon's wise men, Christ's revelatory work saves those who

couldn't save themselves. Daniel's compassion for pagan colleagues points to God's comprehensive mercy—His purposes include blessing even those outside the covenant community. This anticipates gospel universality—salvation offered to all nations through Christ.

Historical Context

Daniel's intercession for pagan wise men demonstrates the influence of exile on Jewish theology. Earlier Israelite thinking sometimes emphasized sharp separation from pagans. Exile taught that God's purposes included blessing nations through Israel's presence and witness. Daniel's saving of Babylonian wise men foreshadowed later Jewish diaspora's impact—blessing host nations through presence and service. This pattern continued in early Christianity's missionary movement—believers blessing communities they inhabited, demonstrating gospel's comprehensive reconciling power.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does Daniel's intercession for failed pagan colleagues teach us about extending mercy even to those whose failure endangered us?
2. How does his combination of spiritual confidence and cultural protocol demonstrate that bold faith needn't disrespect governmental structures?
3. In what ways does Daniel saving Babylonian wise men prefigure Christ's mediating work that saves those who cannot save themselves?

Interlinear Text

כֵּן	אָרוֹךְ	וְגַם	עַל	בְּעֵד	לְנִי	דָּנִיאֵל	לְבָב	לְ	כֶּל
Therefore	H6903	H1836	Daniel	bring me in	unto	Arioch		H1768	
H3606			H1841	H5954	H5922	H746			
יכֵן	אָיוֹן	לְ	בְּבָל	לְחַפֵּים	וְתָהוֹבֵד	לְמַלְכֵב	אָמֵבֵי		
had ordained	the king		to destroy	the wise	men of Babylon	he went	thus		
H4483	H4430		H7	H2445	H895	H236	H3652		
וְאָמַר	לְ	בְּבָל	לְחַפֵּים	וְתָהוֹבֵד	אָל	לְנִי			
and said	H0	the wise	men of Babylon	not	to destroy	bring me in			
H560		H2445	H895	H409	H7	H5954			
אָמַרְתִּי	לְמַלְכֵב	אָמַרְתִּי	וְפִשְׁךְ	אָמַרְתִּי	לְמַלְכֵב	אָמַרְתִּי			
before	the king		the interpretation		the king	and I will shew			
H6925	H4430		H6591		H4430	H2324			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 27:24 (Parallel theme): Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

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