

Daniel 2:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.

Analysis

Nebuchadnezzar's response demonstrates the interpretation's impact: he 'made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon.' The threefold 'great' emphasizes extraordinary elevation. Making Daniel 'chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon' places a Hebrew exile over the empire's intellectual elite—a stunning reversal. This fulfills Joseph's pattern of exaltation in Egypt and demonstrates that God can position His servants for influence even in pagan empires. Daniel's promotion serves God's purposes of maintaining a prophetic witness in Babylon.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern empires rewarded those who solved problems or provided valuable counsel. Daniel's promotion to rule Babylon province and oversee all wise men gave him significant political power. This position would prove crucial in subsequent narratives (fiery furnace, writing on wall, lions' den). Archaeological evidence shows that Nebuchadnezzar restructured his administration throughout his reign, and Daniel's appointment reflects typical ancient practice of incorporating talented foreigners into imperial bureaucracy.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Daniel's elevation demonstrate God's ability to position His servants for influence in hostile environments?
2. What does Daniel's promotion over those who sought to destroy him teach about God's vindication of faithful servants?

Interlinear Text

שָׁגֵיאָן כִּבְרָב וְ וּמְתַנָּן אֵד אֵל

Then the king Daniel a great man gifts great him many

H116

H4430

H1841

H7236

H4978

H7260

H7690

בְּבָל: מְדִינָה תְּכָל עַל יְהִיב

and gave and made him ruler over all province men of Babylon

H3052

H0

H7981

H5922

H3606

H4083

H895

בְּבָל: חֲכִימָה תְּכָל עַל סְתִתְתִּי יְכָבֵב

and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon

H7229

H5460

H5922

H3606

H2445

H895

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 2:6 (Parallel theme): But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.

Daniel 4:9 (Parallel theme): O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof.

Daniel 5:11 (Kingdom): There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers;

Daniel 5:29 (Kingdom): Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 5:16 (Kingdom): And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.

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