

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

שְׁנֵיָאן	רַבְרַב	וּמִתְּנָן	רַב י	לְדָנִי אֵל	מֶלֶךְ א	אִד ין
him many	great	gifts	a great man	Daniel	the king	Then
H7690	H7260	H4978	H7236	H1841	H4430	H116
בָּבֶל:	מְדִינַת	כָּל	עַל	וְהַ שְׁלֹטָה	לֵי הָ	יָהֵב
men of Babylon	province	all	over	and made him ruler		and gave
H895	H4083	H3606	H5922	H7981	H0	H3052
בָּבֶל:	חֲכִימֵי י	כָּל	עַל	סֹגְנֵי ין	יָרֵב	
men of Babylon	the wise	all	over	of the governors	and chief	
H895	H2445	H3606	H5922	H5460	H7229	

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.