

Daniel 2:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

Analysis

Daniel's request for his companions shows covenant loyalty—he doesn't grasp power selfishly but ensures his friends benefit. 'Daniel sat in the gate of the king' indicates maintaining position in the royal court while his companions managed provincial affairs. This distribution of responsibility allowed faithful Jews to influence multiple spheres of Babylonian society. The verse demonstrates both humility (sharing honor) and wisdom (building a team of trustworthy administrators). It also sets up chapter 3, where these three face the fiery furnace while Daniel is absent.

Historical Context

Sitting 'in the gate' represented judicial and administrative authority in ancient Near Eastern cities. The gate complex served as courthouse, marketplace, and administrative center. Daniel's position gave him direct access to the king and oversight of kingdom affairs. His companions—Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego—administering provincial affairs meant they handled taxation, justice, and local governance. This dispersed influence prevented concentration of Hebrew power that might threaten the regime while maximizing impact.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Daniel's inclusion of his friends demonstrate godly leadership that empowers others rather than hoarding power?
2. What does this distribution of responsibility teach about strategically positioning believers for maximum kingdom influence?

Interlinear Text

וְדָנִיֵּאל	בָּעָא	מִן	מַלְכָּא:	וַיִּמְנֵי	עַל	עֲבִידְתָּא	דִּי
Then Daniel	requested	of	of the king	and he set	over	the affairs	H1768
H1841	H1156	H4481	H4430	H4483	H5922	H5673	
מְדִינַת	בָּבֶל	לְשָׁדְרַח	מִישַׁח	וְעַבְדֵּי	וְגַם		
of the province	of Babylon	Shadrach	Meshach	H0	and Abednego		
H4083	H895	H7715	H4336		H5665		
וְדָנִיֵּאל	בִּתְרַע	מַלְכָּא:					
Then Daniel	sat in the gate	of the king					
H1841	H8651	H4430					

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 1:7 (Parallel theme): Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abed-nego.

Esther 2:19 (Kingdom): And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate.

Amos 5:15 (Parallel theme): Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

Esther 2:21 (Kingdom): In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org