

Daniel 2:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, 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

דַּי אַתִּידְתָּא עַל וְמֵבָעַ אֵלֶּנִי אֶל
Then Daniel requested of of the king and he set over the affairs H1768
H1841 H1156 H4481 H4430 H4483 H5922 H5673

תְּגִי יְנַבֵּד מִישָׁל מִשְׁדִּין תְּ
of the province of Babylon Shadrach Meshach and Abednego H0 H5665
H4083 H895 H7715 H4336

מִלְכָא: בַּתְּרַע עֵדֶן אֶל
Then Daniel sat in the gate of the king H4430
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 • kjvstudy.org