

Daniel 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

Analysis

The shocking demand 'The thing is gone from me' (possibly 'the decree has gone forth from me') reverses normal procedure. The king demands they reveal both dream and interpretation, threatening execution and property destruction if they fail, promising wealth if they succeed. This impossible standard exposes the hollowness of pagan wisdom—if they truly access divine knowledge, they should know the dream without being told. God orchestrates this crisis to demonstrate that only He reveals mysteries. The extreme threat shows absolute monarchy's power and the desperate stakes of claiming divine insight without actually possessing it.

Historical Context

Babylonian kings exercised absolute authority including capital punishment for failed advisors. The threat to destroy houses and make their dwellings dunghill (refuse heap) reflects ancient conquest practices where enemies' property was demolished and defiled. The promised rewards—'gifts and rewards and great honour'—included wealth, position, and privilege. Court wise men lived precariously between potential enrichment and execution based on royal favor.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God orchestrate circumstances to expose the inadequacy of worldly wisdom systems that claim divine authority?
2. What does the impossible demand teach about authentic divine revelation versus religious systems built on human speculation?

Interlinear Text

עָנָה	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וַאֲמַר	לְכַשְׁדִּי אֵל	הַמֶּלֶךְ	מִנִּי	אֲזַיֵּךְ
answered	The king	and said	to the Chaldeans	The thing	from me	is gone
H6032	H4430	H560	H3779	H4406	H4481	H230

אִם	לֹא	תְהוֹדְעוּנִי	חֲלֹמִי	וּפִשְׁרִי
if	ye will not	make known	unto me the dream	with the interpretation
H2006	H3809	H3046	H2493	H6591

הַדָּמִין	תִּתְעַבֵּד וְ	וּבֵתֶיכֶם	נִלְוִי	יִתְשָׁמוּן:
in pieces	thereof ye shall be cut	and your houses	a dunghill	shall be made
H1917	H5648	H1005	H5122	H7761

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 3:29 (Creation): Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

Ezra 6:11 (Creation): Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this.

2 Kings 10:27 (Creation): And they brake down the image of Baal, and brake down the house of Baal, and made it a draught house unto this day.

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