

Daniel 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

King Nebuchadnezzar's offer—"gifts and rewards and great honour"—contrasts sharply with his threat of destruction (verse 5). This carrot-and-stick approach reveals how earthly powers manipulate: terror for disobedience, lavish rewards for compliance. The Hebrew *mattanan* (מַתָּנָן, "gifts") suggests ongoing benefits, *nebizebah* (נְבִיזָבָה, "rewards") implies financial compensation, and *yeqar* (יָקָר, "honour") means social elevation. Nebuchadnezzar offers comprehensive enticement—material wealth and social status.

The king's insistence "therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation" reveals his desperation. He needs validation that interpretation will be genuine—only someone truly accessing supernatural knowledge could know both dream content and meaning. This unwittingly sets the stage for God's glory through Daniel. When Daniel reveals what no human wisdom could know, God's superiority over pagan divination becomes undeniable. Human inducements pale before divine revelation's authentication.

Spiritually, this models the world's offers: compromise biblical convictions, receive wealth and status. Satan tempted Christ similarly (Matthew 4:8-9). Yet true reward comes from God, not human kings. Daniel's later refusal of Belshazzar's gifts (5:17) shows mature faith values divine approval over earthly compensation. This points to Christ, who rejected earthly kingdom for redemptive suffering, gaining ultimate exaltation (Philippians 2:8-11).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings regularly rewarded advisors who provided satisfactory guidance through omens, dreams, and divination. Royal favor meant immense wealth—purple robes, gold chains, estates, political power. Nebuchadnezzar's court included extensive wise men classes competing for patronage. His offer was genuine; later Daniel received exactly these rewards (2:48). Yet the requirement that wise men know the dream without being told was unprecedented, exposing pagan divination's fraudulent nature. True revelation from God surpasses human pretense.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the world today offer 'gifts, rewards, and great honour' in exchange for compromising biblical convictions?
2. What does God's superior revelation through Daniel teach us about the futility of human wisdom apart from divine illumination?
3. In what ways does Christ's rejection of Satan's offer of earthly kingdoms model proper response to worldly enticements?

Interlinear Text

וְהָא	חֵלֶם א	וּפְשָׁרָהּ	הַחֲוִי:	מִתְּנָה	וְנִבְזָה
But if	me the dream	and the interpretation	shew	gifts	and rewards
H2006	H2493	H6591	H2324	H4978	H5023
וְיָקָר	שָׁנָה יָא	תִּקְבֹּל וְ	מִן	קִדְמָה י	לָהּ
honour	and great	thereof ye shall receive	of me	H6925	therefore
H3367	H7690	H6902	H4481		H3861
חֵלֶם א	וּפְשָׁרָהּ	הַחֲוִי:			
me the dream	and the interpretation	shew			
H2493	H6591	H2324			

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 5:7 (Parallel theme): The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 2:48 (Parallel theme): 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.

Daniel 5:29 (Parallel theme): 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.