

Daniel 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.

Analysis

Nebuchadnezzar's response—"I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me"—reveals his suspicion of the Chaldeans' motives. The phrase "gain the time" means delay, stall, buy time. The king discerns their stalling tactics, recognizing they hope he'll forget the dream or relent in his demand. His phrase "the thing is gone from me" has been debated—does it mean he forgot the dream, or that his decree is firm and irreversible? Context suggests the latter: his decree stands uncompromised.

This verse reveals the bankruptcy of pagan divination when truly tested. The Chaldeans, who claimed supernatural access through magic and astrology, stand exposed as frauds unable to deliver when pressed. Their stalling demonstrates lack of genuine supernatural knowledge. In contrast, Daniel's later immediate response (verses 19-23) demonstrates true divine revelation—no delay, no uncertainty, just confident declaration of what God reveals. False religion produces uncertainty and manipulation; true revelation brings clarity and confidence.

Spiritually, this warns against false spiritual claims. Many profess supernatural knowledge, prophetic ability, or divine insight, but crumble under testing. True spiritual gifts demonstrate consistent reliability, not strategic avoidance. Christ consistently demonstrated genuine divine authority—He never stalled, manipulated, or evaded. His teaching carried intrinsic authority (Matthew 7:29), His miracles withstood scrutiny, His resurrection vindicated all claims. Believers

should test spiritual claims rigorously, accepting only what demonstrates genuine divine authentication.

Historical Context

Babylonian wise men enjoyed privileged positions but faced dangerous accountability. Kings could execute advisors whose counsel failed. Nebuchadnezzar's demand was unprecedented—requiring dream content before interpretation prevented fraudulent manipulation. The Chaldeans' stalling exposed their methods as human guesswork dressed as divine revelation. This scene dramatically contrasts pagan pretense with genuine biblical revelation. Israel's prophets spoke God's actual words (Deuteronomy 18:18); Babylon's diviners spoke human speculation. Daniel's success demonstrated Yahweh's superiority over Babylonian gods and validation systems.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the Chaldeans' stalling when tested expose the difference between false and genuine spiritual claims?
2. What does Nebuchadnezzar's suspicion teach us about maintaining healthy skepticism toward unverified spiritual assertions?
3. In what ways does Christ's consistent demonstration of divine authority contrast with religious leaders who evade scrutiny?

Interlinear Text

ד	ו	אָתָה	יְדָעָה	מִצְרַיִם	מִתְּבָא	עָתָה	ה
answered	The king	and said	is	of certainty	know	I	H1768
H6032	H4430	H560	H4481	H3330	H3046	H576	
אָזֶן	אָזֶן	סִירִית	וְלֹא	עָזַן	אָזֶן	אָזֶן	
the time	that ye	would gain	because	H1768	ye see	H1768	gone
H5732	H608	H2084	H6903		H2370		H230
מִתְּבָא:	מִתְּבָא:						
is	the thing						
H4481	H4406						

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