

Daniel 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now the queen, by reason of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed:

Analysis

The queen (likely the queen mother, Nebuchadnezzar's widow or Belshazzar's mother, since the king's wives were already present at the feast, v.2) enters after hearing the commotion. Her opening words—'O king, live for ever'—use the standard greeting while addressing the immediate situation: 'let not thy thoughts trouble thee, neither let thy countenance be changed.' She has wisdom the king lacks: knowledge of Daniel and his proven abilities. Her calm demeanor and immediate solution contrast with the panicked king and dismayed nobles. This introduces a pattern Scripture frequently shows: God's provision often comes through unexpected sources. The elder generation's wisdom (queen mother) corrects the younger generation's ignorance. Her entrance shifts the narrative toward resolution, introducing Daniel who will interpret and pronounce judgment.

Historical Context

The queen's likely identity as Nebuchadnezzar's widow or Belshazzar's mother (rather than Belshazzar's wife) explains her authoritative entrance and comprehensive knowledge of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, including Daniel's earlier service. Royal women in ancient Near Eastern courts, particularly queen mothers, held significant influence—advising kings, managing palace affairs, and preserving institutional memory. Her knowledge of Daniel, who had apparently been out of

favor or retired during Belshazzar's co-regency, proves crucial. This demonstrates God's providence: though Daniel was marginalized politically, he remained available when needed. The queen mother's intervention shows how God preserves His servants for strategic moments.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the queen mother's calm wisdom contrast with the king's panicked fear?
2. What does her knowledge of Daniel teach about the importance of institutional memory and learning from previous generations?
3. Why does God sometimes sideline His servants temporarily before bringing them forward at crucial moments?

Interlinear Text

מַלְכָּתָּ א	לְקַבֵּל ל	מִלֵּי י	מַלְכָּא	וּבְרַבְרָנָּ וְהִי	לְבִית
Now the queen	by reason	of the words	O king	and his lords	house
H4433	H6903	H4406	H4430	H7261	H1005
מִשְׁתֵּי א	עַל לַת	שָׁנָה ת	מַלְכָּתָּ א	וְאָמַרְתָּ	מַלְכָּא
into the banquet	came	spake	Now the queen	and said	O king
H4961	H5954	H6032	H4433	H560	H4430
לְעֶלְמָ יִן	חַיִּי י	אַל	יְבַהֲלוּךְ	בְּעֵינֶיךָ הִ	וְזִין יִרְ
for ever	live	let not	trouble	thy thoughts	thee nor let thy countenance
H5957	H2418	H409	H927	H7476	H2122
אַל	יִשְׁתַּנּוּ:				
let not	be changed				
H409	H8133				

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 3:9 (Kingdom): They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

Daniel 2:4 (Kingdom): Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

Daniel 6:6 (Kingdom): Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.