

Daniel 5:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.

Analysis

The queen details Daniel's specific abilities: 'excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, showing hard sentences, and dissolving doubts.' These encompass the full range of wisdom—intellectual acuity, spiritual discernment, interpretive skill, and problem-solving ability. The phrase 'interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts' catalogs precisely what the current situation requires. She concludes with recommendation: 'let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.' This confident assertion demonstrates complete faith in Daniel's abilities based on previous performance. The verse emphasizes that the solution to their crisis isn't finding better human wisdom or more sophisticated methods—it's consulting the man who possesses God's Spirit. This reinforces the consistent biblical principle: spiritual problems require spiritual solutions; divine revelation requires divinely-illuminated interpreters.

Historical Context

The queen mother's catalog of Daniel's abilities—dream interpretation, solving hard problems, dissolving doubts—reflects ancient Near Eastern categories of wisdom. Dream interpretation was highly valued (as in Egypt with Joseph, Genesis

41). 'Hard sentences' (Aramaic קִשְׁרִין/qishrin) refers to riddles, puzzles, or difficult problems requiring insight. 'Dissolving doubts' means untying knots—solving complex issues. These weren't merely intellectual exercises but practical governance needs: kings required advisors who could interpret omens, solve administrative problems, and provide wise counsel. Daniel's proven abilities in Nebuchadnezzar's time established him as possessing these competencies through divine gift rather than human training alone.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the queen mother's confidence in Daniel contrast with the king's desperate searching among failed experts?
2. What does Daniel's comprehensive wisdom (knowledge, understanding, interpretation, problem-solving) teach about Spirit-filled competence?
3. Why do spiritual problems require spiritually-gifted solutions rather than merely sophisticated human methods?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁכַלְתָּנִי	1	וּמְנַדֵּע	וְשָׁכַלְתָּנִי	1	כָּל
H3606	Forasmuch as	H1768	spirit	an excellent	and knowledge
H6903		H7308		H3493	and understanding
				H4486	
				H7924	
לְבָרְךָ	יְהִי	וּמְשִׁיר	א	אֲחִיךְ	רַמְפֵּשׁ
interpreting	of dreams	H2493	and shewing	H263	of hard sentences
H6590				H280	and dissolving
				H8271	of doubts
H7001					
שְׁמָמָה	הַשְׁתַּקְתָּכָה	סְתָתָה	בָּהּ	דָּנִיָּאֵל	לְדָנִיָּאֵל
were found		H0	in the same	Daniel	H1768
H7912				H1841	whom the king
				H4430	named
				H7761	H8036
וְפִשְׁרָה	הַתְּקִרְבָּה	בְּלֵטְשָׁאָצָה	רַמְפֵּשׁ	וְפִשְׁרָה	הַתְּקִרְבָּה
Belteshazzar	now	in the same	Daniel	H7123	the interpretation
H1096	H3705		H1841	H6591	
וְבָתִיחָה:					
and he will shew					
	H2324				

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 6:3 (Kingdom): Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Daniel 5:14 (Spirit): I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.

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.

Proverbs 12:26 (Parallel theme): The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

Daniel 5:16 (Kingdom): And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Psalms 16:3 (Parallel theme): But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.

Daniel 4:8 (Spirit): But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying,

Proverbs 17:27 (Spirit): He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

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