

Daniel 6:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

Analysis

The king's response reveals his character: 'Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.' Darius recognizes he's been manipulated. The phrase 'displeased with himself' shows appropriate self-blame—he signed the foolish decree. His efforts 'till the going down of the sun' demonstrate genuine care for Daniel and desperate search for legal loopholes. Yet even royal power cannot overcome the irrevocable law's constraints. This illustrates human authority's limitations—even well-meaning rulers can be trapped by unjust systems.

Historical Context

The irrevocable nature of Medo-Persian law meant even kings were bound by decrees once issued (cf. Esther 8:8). This differed from Babylonian practice giving kings more arbitrary power. Darius's day-long effort to find legal escape demonstrates both his regard for Daniel and frustration with rigid legal constraints. Ancient Near Eastern kings typically consulted legal advisors, religious specialists, and historical precedents seeking ways around legal difficulties. That sunset marked deadline suggests execution was scheduled for nightfall—increasing pressure on the king's desperate efforts.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Darius's frustrated efforts teach about human authority's limitations when constrained by unjust laws or circumstances?
2. What does the king's displacement with himself teach about responsibility—we bear consequences for unwise commitments even when manipulated into them?

Interlinear Text

בָּאָשָׁר	שְׁגַיָּא	שָׁמַע	מֶלֶךְ	אָמַר	אָז	!
Then	the king	H1768	these words	when he heard	was sore	displeased
H116	H4430		H4406	H8086	H7690	H888
עַד	לְשִׁיזְבּוּתָהּ	הַבָּלֶבֶת	שָׁם	בְּלֹא	וְלֹא	וְלֹא
on	on	Daniel	with himself and set	his heart	to deliver	till
H5922	H5922	H1841	H7761	H1079	H7804	H5705
לְפָאַלְוָתָה:	מִשְׁתַּחַתְּ	רַ	אָנָּה	בְּ	שְׁמַשׁ	אָמַלְ
the going down	of the sun	him and he laboured	H1934	H7712	H5338	
H4606	H8122					

Additional Cross-References

Mark 6:26 (Kingdom): And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.

