

Daniel 6:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

Analysis

The sealing of the den ensures no human intervention: 'And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.' The double seal (king's and lords') prevents anyone from secretly rescuing Daniel. Ironically, measures meant to ensure Daniel's death become evidence of God's supernatural deliverance. The phrase 'that the purpose might not be changed' shows human determination to enforce the unjust law. Yet God's purposes cannot be thwarted by sealed stones or human decrees.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern sealing practices used signet rings pressed into wax or clay to authenticate documents and secure closures. Breaking a royal seal constituted serious crime. The double seal (king and lords) meant witnesses who would verify any tampering. This parallels Jesus's tomb being sealed and guarded (Matthew 27:66)—human precautions meant to prevent deliverance actually validate the miracle when deliverance occurs. Archaeological discoveries include numerous ancient seals showing this practice was common.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do human attempts to prevent God's purposes often become the very means by which those purposes are validated?
2. What does the double seal teach about how thoroughness of opposition magnifies the glory of divine deliverance?

Interlinear Text

וְהִיָּת יֵת	אֶבֶן	וְהָיָה	וְשָׁמַת	עַל	פִּי	גִבֹּרֵת	וְחִתְּמָהּ
was brought	stone	And a	and laid	upon	the mouth	of the den	sealed
H858	H69	H2298	H7761	H5922	H6433	H1358	H2857

וּמֶלֶךְ	וּבְעִזָּתָהּ	וּבְעִזָּתָהּ	בְּרִבְרֵב	וְהִיא
and the king	and with the signet	and with the signet	of his lords	
H4430	H5824	H5824	H7261	H1768

לֹא	תִשָּׁנֶה	צֶבֶד	בְּדִנְיָאֵל
might not	be changed	that the purpose	concerning Daniel
H3809	H8133	H6640	H1841

Additional Cross-References

Lamentations 3:53 (Parallel theme): They have cut off my life in the dungeon, and cast a stone upon me.