

# 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

---

וַיִּמְתַּמֵּן הַדָּן אֶל מִפְּנֵי אֲבִיו בָּנָיו וְהִיא תִּתְּבִּיא בָּנָיו  
was brought stone And a and laid upon the mouth of the den sealed  
H858 H69 H2298 H7761 H5922 H6433 H1358 H2857

וְבָרְבָּן וְהִי וְבָעֵזֶת וְבָעֵזֶת אֶל מֶלֶךְ אֶל  
and the king and with the signet and with the signet of his lords  
H4430 H5824 H5824 H7261 H1768

בְּדַנְּאֵל: אֶל תְּשִׁיב אֶל צָב וְתַּשְׁמִין אֶל  
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.