

Daniel 6:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Analysis

The text states that Daniel's enemies 'could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.' This establishes Daniel's exemplary character—his administrative excellence, personal integrity, and faithful service were beyond reproach. The Hebrew 'faithful' (מְהִימָן, meheiman) means trustworthy, reliable, dependable. 'Error' (שָׁלָע, shalu) refers to negligence or mistakes; 'fault' (עַשְׁתֵּה, ushte) means corruption. Despite thorough investigation by hostile colleagues seeking grounds for accusation, they found nothing. This demonstrates that Christian witness includes professional excellence and personal integrity. Believers should be so faithful in secular work that enemies can find no legitimate grounds for accusation (1 Peter 2:12, Titus 2:7-8). The only grounds Daniel's enemies found was 'concerning the law of his God' (6:5)—his religious devotion, not professional incompetence or moral failure, gave them opportunity. This is the pattern Jesus described: 'Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you...for my sake' (Matthew 5:11)—persecution for righteousness, not for foolishness or actual wrongdoing.

Historical Context

This occurred early in Darius the Mede's reign (539 BC) after Babylon's fall to Persia. Daniel, approximately 80 years old, had served Babylonian and now Persian

administrations faithfully for over 65 years. His administrative skill and integrity had earned him appointment as one of three presidents over 120 provincial governors. This provoked jealousy among fellow administrators who conspired to destroy him. Their investigation reveals ancient bureaucratic politics—threatened officials seeking to eliminate a competitor. Yet their thorough examination found nothing. Daniel's decades of faithful service, refusing bribes, administering justly, and working excellently had created an unimpeachable record. This demonstrates that consistent faithfulness over time builds reputation that withstands hostile scrutiny.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does your professional conduct and character reflect Christian integrity to watching colleagues and superiors?
2. What areas of your work, finances, or personal life would hostile investigation reveal as compromised or unfaithful?
3. How can you maintain excellence and integrity in secular work as a form of Christian witness?

Interlinear Text

עַל הַבָּעֵד וְאֶת־סְרָכִי אָדָן
Then the presidents and princes sought H1156 occasion
H116 H5632 H324 H1934 H1156 H5931

עַל הַבָּעֵד וְכֵל מֶלֶכְתִּי אָדָן
find against Daniel concerning the kingdom but occasion
H7912 H1841 H6655 H4437 H3606 H5931

דֵּין קָבֵל וְכֵל הַשְׁתִּיכָּת יְכֵל יְהוָה וְשָׁחִית הַ
fault neither they could find but forasmuch H1768
H7844 H3809 H3202 H7912 H3606 H6903

הַשְׁתִּיכָּת לֹא וְשָׁחִית הַשְׁלֹן וְכֵל הַוְאָה מְהִימָּן
as he was faithful H1932 but error fault neither find
H540 H3606 H7960 H7844 H3809 H7912

עַל־וְהָיָה

in him

H5922

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 3:16 (Parallel theme): Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

1 Peter 2:12 (Parallel theme): Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Philippians 2:15 (Parallel theme): That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Luke 20:20 (Parallel theme): And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor.

Matthew 27:18 (Parallel theme): For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

Titus 2:8 (Parallel theme): Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Proverbs 29:27 (Parallel theme): An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.

Jeremiah 20:10 (Parallel theme): For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him.

Ecclesiastes 4:4 (Parallel theme): Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

1 Timothy 5:14 (Parallel theme): I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.