

Daniel 6:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

Analysis

Unable to find legal fault, conspirators shift tactics: 'Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.' This acknowledges Daniel's absolute integrity while identifying the one non-negotiable area: his religious devotion. They recognize he won't compromise worship of God even under legal threats. Ironically, their plot validates Daniel's testimony—his faith is so public, consistent, and uncompromising that enemies know they can trap him only through religious persecution. This models effective witness: living such that the only accusation against us concerns faithful devotion to God.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern polytheism typically allowed multiple religious practices simultaneously. Jews' exclusive monotheism made them inflexible in ways polytheists found incomprehensible and politically dangerous. Daniel's daily prayer practice was evidently well-known, providing predictable behavior enemies could criminalize. The plot parallels tactics used against early Christians—when unable to prove criminal behavior, authorities attacked religious practice (cf. persecution under Rome). Throughout history, faithful believers have been targeted specifically for religious conviction when other accusations fail.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does enemies targeting Daniel's faith validate that his witness was public, consistent, and uncompromising?
2. What does the shift from legal accusation to religious persecution teach about how the world ultimately opposes godliness itself?

Interlinear Text

בָּשָׁךְ חָנָא לְאָלָן גָּבְבָּי אַאֲלָן

Then men these said We shall not find

H116 H1400 H479 H560 H1768 H3809 H7912

עַל וּמִי בָּשָׁךְ חָנָא לְהָנָה אַלְדָּנִי אַל

Daniel this any occasion except find against

H1841 H1836 H3606 H5931 H3861 H7912 H5922

אַלְקָה:

it against him concerning the law of his God

H1882 H426

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 24:17 (Parallel theme): And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.

Esther 3:8 (Word): And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them.

