

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

הַשֵּׁפְ חֲנָא	לֹא	דִּי	אָמַר יֵן	אֵלֶּךְ	גְּבַרֵי אֶיִן	אֶיִן
find	We shall not	H1768	said	these	men	Then
H7912	H3809		H560	H479	H1400	H116
עַל וְהִי	הַשֵּׁפְ חֲנָא	לֹהֵן	עַל אֶ	כֹּל	דִּן הֵ	לְדַנֵּי אֵל
against	find	except	occasion	any	this	Daniel
H5922	H7912	H3861	H5931	H3606	H1836	H1841
אֱלֹהֵיהֶּ:			בְּדִן ת			
of his God			it against him concerning the law			
H426			H1882			

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.

