

Daniel 8:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.

Analysis

The chapter concludes: "And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business." Daniel's physical collapse demonstrates the overwhelming nature of divine revelation. Receiving prophetic visions wasn't pleasant entertainment but physically and emotionally exhausting work. The verb "fainted" (Hebrew: *nehveh*, נִהְיָה) suggests being exhausted, worn out, devastated. "Was sick certain days" indicates extended recovery time—visions of future persecution and evil's apparent triumph took severe toll.

Yet Daniel recovered and returned to duty: "rose up, and did the king's business." This models faithful perseverance despite spiritual and emotional burden. Daniel didn't use his prophetic gifting as excuse to neglect daily responsibilities. He served pagan kings faithfully while remaining God's prophet—demonstrating that spiritual calling doesn't excuse ordinary duties. Faithfulness in mundane tasks accompanies extraordinary spiritual experiences. True holiness combines prophetic vision with faithful workplace service.

"I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it" reveals Daniel's isolation. Despite receiving interpretation, full comprehension eluded him—the 383-year gap until fulfillment meant he wouldn't see vindication in his lifetime. Yet he remained faithful despite incomplete understanding. This models faith—trusting God's purposes even when we don't fully comprehend them, persevering in obedience

despite unanswered questions. Christ perfectly fulfilled this pattern—faithfully obeying unto death, trusting Father's purposes He couldn't yet fully see.

Historical Context

Daniel's continued service to Babylonian and Persian kings while maintaining prophetic calling demonstrates vocational integration. He didn't retreat from secular employment into isolated spirituality, but engaged culture while remaining distinct. This model influenced Jewish communities during later persecution—they maintained dual identity as citizens and covenant people, serving earthly rulers while prioritizing divine allegiance. Daniel's example encouraged faithful cultural engagement without compromise, a pattern Christians continue following today.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does Daniel's physical exhaustion from receiving visions teach us about the costly nature of genuine spiritual experience?
2. How does Daniel's return to 'the king's business' after prophetic encounters model integration of spiritual calling with daily work?
3. In what ways should Daniel's faithful service despite incomplete understanding encourage trust in God's purposes we don't fully comprehend?

Interlinear Text

וְאֲנִי י	דָּנִי אֶל	נָהַי יָתִי	וְנָחֵלִי יָתִי	יָמֵי יָם	וְאַקְוֹם
H589	And I Daniel	fainted	and was sick	certain days	afterward I rose up
	H1840	H1961	H2470	H3117	H6965
וְעָשָׂה ה	אֶת	מֶלֶךְ אֶכֶת	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וְאֶשְׁתּוֹמֵם	עַל
and did	H853	business	the king's	and I was astonished	H5921
H6213		H4399	H4428	H8074	at the vision
					H4758
וְאִי	מִבִּין:				
H369	but none understood				
	H995				

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 7:28 (Parallel theme): Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

Habakkuk 3:16 (Parallel theme): When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.