

# 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: nehyeh, נָהַי) 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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

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וְאֵת יְמֵי יְמִינֵי אֶלְעָנֵי  
H589 And I Daniel H1840 fainted H1961 and was sick H2470 certain days H3117 afterward I rose up H6965

הַמְּרָאָה עַל תְּאַשְׁתָּוּם מִן אֶת צְאַשְׁשָׁה הָ  
and did H853 business H4399 the king's H4428 and I was astonished H8074 at the vision H4758

מִבֵּין אֵין מִבֵּין:  
H369 but none understood H995

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

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