

Daniel 9:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

Analysis

While Daniel prays, divine response comes: "Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation." The phrase "whiles I was speaking" emphasizes that Gabriel arrived before Daniel finished praying—God responds even before petition concludes (Isaiah 65:24). This demonstrates divine eagerness to answer faithful prayer rooted in Scripture and covenant promises.

Gabriel, described as "being caused to fly swiftly" (literally "wearied with weariness" or "in swift flight"), hastens to Daniel with urgent divine message. The angel's rapid response reflects heaven's concern for God's people and eagerness to reveal redemptive purposes. The timing—"about the time of the evening oblation"—references the sacrifice that would have been offered at the temple (approximately 3 PM). Though the temple lay in ruins and sacrifices had ceased, Daniel maintained prayer discipline tied to temple worship rhythms (Daniel 6:10).

This passage demonstrates prayer's efficacy when grounded in God's Word and offered with faithful persistence. Daniel didn't receive immediate visible response, but heaven mobilized the moment he began praying. The reference to evening sacrifice points forward to Christ, the true sacrifice who accomplished what temple

offerings foreshadowed (Hebrews 10:10-14). Believers' prayers, offered through Christ's sacrifice, receive favorable divine hearing and response.

Historical Context

The evening oblation occurred at 3 PM daily in the temple (Exodus 29:38-42). Though Jerusalem's temple was destroyed and sacrifices impossible during exile, Daniel maintained prayer discipline according to temple schedule, demonstrating commitment to worship despite circumstances. This godly discipline positioned him to receive divine revelation. The timing also connects to Christ's death at approximately 3 PM (the ninth hour, Matthew 27:45-46), linking temple sacrifice to Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Gabriel's arrival before Daniel finished praying illustrate God's eagerness to answer prayer grounded in His Word and promises?
2. What does Daniel's maintenance of prayer discipline tied to temple sacrifice teach about worship commitment despite unfavorable circumstances?
3. How does the evening oblation timing point forward to Christ's sacrifice and should shape our understanding of prayer efficacy?

Interlinear Text

גַּבְרִיאֵל ל	וְהָאִישׁ	בַּתְּפִלָּה	מְדַבֵּר	אֲנִי יְעֹד	
Gabriel	even the man	in prayer	Yea whiles I was speaking		
H1403	H376	H8605	H1696	H589	H5750
מֵעַ רַ	בַּתְּחִלָּה	בְּחֶזֶן וֶן	כִּי יָרָא	אֲשֶׁר	
being caused to fly	at the beginning	in the vision	whom I had seen		
H3286	H8462	H2377	H7200	H834	
עֶרֶב:	מִנְחָת	כֵּעַ ת	אֵלַי י	נִגַּעַ	בִּיעַ רַ
of the evening	oblation	me about the time		touched	swiftly
H6153	H4503	H6256	H413	H5060	H3288

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:19 (Parallel theme): And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

Daniel 8:16 (Parallel theme): And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.

1 Kings 18:36 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

Daniel 10:16 (Parallel theme): And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.

Hebrews 1:14 (Parallel theme): Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Isaiah 6:2 (Parallel theme): Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

Acts 10:3 (Parallel theme): He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

Psalms 103:20 (Parallel theme): Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Exodus 29:39 (Parallel theme): The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even:

Daniel 8:18 (Kingdom): Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright.

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