

Daniel 9:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

Analysis

Gabriel explains his mission: "And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding." The angel's purpose—providing "skill and understanding"—indicates God's desire to illuminate His servants about divine purposes. The Hebrew *sekel* (שְׁכָל, "skill") suggests insight, prudence, and practical wisdom; *binah* (בִּנָה, "understanding") denotes discernment and intelligence. God grants both theoretical knowledge and practical wisdom for applying truth.

The phrase "I am now come forth" emphasizes Gabriel's immediate dispatch at Daniel's prayer's beginning. Heaven responds promptly to faithful prayer, though earthly observation may not perceive immediate answer. This encourages persistent prayer even when visible results delay—spiritual realities may be in motion before earthly manifestation appears. The parallel with Daniel 10:12-13, where angelic response faced demonic opposition, demonstrates that prayer initiates heavenly activity invisible to earthly observers.

Gabriel's mission to provide understanding demonstrates that divine revelation comes through authorized channels, not human speculation. God illuminates His Word through His Spirit and authorized means, not through fanciful interpretation. This points to Christ who sends the Spirit to guide into truth (John 16:13) and opens understanding of Scripture (Luke 24:45). Believers should seek divine illumination through Word and Spirit rather than relying on human wisdom.

Historical Context

Gabriel appeared to Daniel previously (Daniel 8:16) and later to Zechariah and Mary (Luke 1:19, 26), consistently serving as divine messenger revealing God's redemptive purposes. His role demonstrates that God uses angelic messengers to communicate crucial revelation to His servants. The timing (near exile's end) was significant—God provided prophetic understanding precisely when His people needed hope and direction for restoration.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Gabriel's immediate dispatch at Daniel's prayer encourage persistence even when visible answers seem delayed?
2. What does seeking "skill and understanding" through divine revelation teach about proper sources for biblical interpretation?
3. How should knowing that God eagerly provides illumination shape our approach to studying difficult biblical passages?

Interlinear Text

וְיִדְבֶּרֶת	עִמָּךְ	וַיֹּאמֶר	עִמָּךְ	וְעַתָּה
And he informed	me and talked	with me and said	O Daniel	
H995	H1696	H5973	H559	H6258

וְאֵת	בִּנְהָה	לְמַשְׁפִּילָךְ	אַתִּי
I am now come forth	to give thee skill	and understanding	

| H3318 | H7919 | H998 | |

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 10:21 (Parallel theme): But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.

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.

Zechariah 1:9 (Parallel theme): Then said I, O my lord, what are these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will shew thee what these be.