

Daniel 9:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

Analysis

Gabriel reveals God's regard for Daniel: 'At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.' The phrase 'at the beginning' shows God initiated response immediately when Daniel began praying. Gabriel's mission—"I am come to shew thee"—indicates divine commitment to giving understanding. The declaration 'thou art greatly beloved' (Hebrew: chamudot, precious, treasured) expresses divine affection. This motivates attentive consideration: 'therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.' Being loved by God includes receiving revelation of His purposes.

Historical Context

Gabriel appears only in Daniel (8:16; 9:21) and Luke's nativity accounts (1:19, 26), suggesting special role in messianic revelation. The angel's immediate dispatch 'at the beginning' of prayer shows divine responsiveness. Ancient Near Eastern religion portrayed gods as distant, requiring ritual manipulation. Biblical theology presents God who actively seeks relationship with His people, sending angelic messengers with revelation. The timing fulfilled God's promise that before they call, He answers (Isaiah 65:24).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's immediate response 'at the beginning' of prayer demonstrate His eagerness to communicate with those who seek Him?
2. What does being 'greatly beloved' teach about election rooted in divine affection rather than human merit?

Interlinear Text

בְּתִחְלֵי ת	תְּחִנּוֹתַי יְיָ	יָצָא	בְּדִבְרֵי ר	וְאֵנִי
At the beginning	of thy supplications	came forth	the commandment	
H8462	H8469	H3318	H1697	H589
וְאֵנִי	וְהִבֵּי	אֶתְּהָ	חֲמוּד וְתִי	לְהַגִּיד
and I am come	to shew			
H935	H5046	H3588	H2530	H859
וְהִבֵּי	וְהִבֵּי	וְהִבֵּי	וְהִבֵּי	וְהִבֵּי
the commandment	and consider	the vision		
H1697	H995	H4758		

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 10:19 (Love): And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

Matthew 24:15 (Parallel theme): When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Luke 1:28 (Parallel theme): And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

Song of Solomon 7:10: I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me.

Ezekiel 24:16 (Parallel theme): Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down.

Ezekiel 26:12 (Parallel theme): And they shall make a spoil of thy riches, and make a prey of thy merchandise: and they shall break down thy walls, and destroy thy pleasant houses: and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water.