

DANIEL
CHAPTER 10

Daniel, having humbled himself, sees a vision

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing *was* true, but the time appointed *was* long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision. **2** In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. **3** I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. **4** And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which *is* Hiddekel; **5** Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins *were* girded with fine gold of Uphaz: **6** His body also *was* like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude. **7** And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. **8** Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. **9** Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.

Being troubled and fearful, he is comforted by the angel

10 And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and *upon* the palms of my hands. **11** And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. **12** Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.

13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. **14** Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision *is* for *many* days. **15** And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. **16** 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. **17** For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me. **18** Then there came again and touched me *one* like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, **19** 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. **20** Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and

when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come. **21** 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 10:1-21 (KJV)

Warfare in Spiritual Realm
“Thou didst set thine heart to understand...”

OUTLINE

- (1) Warfare on the knees (v1-12)**
- (2) Warfare in the heavenlies (v13-22)**

INTRODUCTION

Daniel Chapter 10-12 is the account of Daniel’s final vision. He had a glimpse of the “conflicts in the unseen world” [Paul Lee Tan] that influenced geo-political events in chapter 10.

The vision stretches from Daniel's time until the Great Tribulation and the return of Christ. How key rulers of the future are named that affects God’s people Israel and how it spans selectively till the end of time in the kingdom of the Antichrist in chapter 11. Also Daniel was given a glimpse of Israel at the end of time before the millennial rule of Christ on earth in chapter 12.

What tremendous privilege and what responsibility God gave to His servant. We see how Daniel did prepare his heart to tarry in prayer and fasting for prolonged time.

(1) Warfare on the knees (v1-12)

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision. 2 In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. 3 I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

The phrase “but the time appointed was long” is literally “and warfare great.” The phrase “time appointed” is the Hebrew word “zava” means “to wage war”. It speaks of “conflict”. The word literally means “an army” and speak of “war”. It is used to speak of armies of men, armies of angels and actual warfare. Here, the warfare is spiritual. We are speaking here of angels and demons in the heavenlies and nations (Israel and Persia) on earth and conflict that last through the ages of time.

The tarrying for God’s revelation was a great warfare that Daniel fought on his knees.

3 years earlier, Cyrus had allowed the Jews to return to Palestine to lay the foundation for the 2nd Temple (Ezra 3). Daniel was not among the returnees possibly because he was already well-advanced in age to make the long journey and also his responsible position in the government kept him from

returning.¹ This was in 536 B.C. on the 3rd year of Cyrus' reign. It is 2 years after Daniel was given the vision of the 70 weeks by the angel Gabriel.²

It is interesting to notice that only 42,000 of the Jews returned to Israel. What happened to the remaining. There must be vast number of Jews scattered in the kingdom. It seemed they have assimilated comfortably and would not want to uproot and return to a delapidated homeland.

For 21 days, he mourned and fasted. Here we noticed that Daniel did not eat nothing but he abstained from delicacies and ate the simply the needful staple food to sustain his body. Remember, with Daniel's position, he has accessed to the best indulgences of food and pleasure in the kingdom.

Daniel solemnly sought the LORD to reveal the future of His people in the latter times (v1-3). By this time, Daniel was an old man, possibly even past 90 years of age. He continued his life of devotion to God but here we see the intensity of it. He spent all day and many days in prayer. A prolonged prayer meeting that lasted 3 weeks.

4 And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel;

Daniel must have mourned from the 3rd day to the 24th day of the first month (Nisan in Jewish calendar). MacArthur observed, "What is particularly interesting about that is that Passover always fell on the fourteenth of Nisan. So he is mourning all through the Passover time and the seven days of feast of unleavened bread. That was a very special season, a season of some celebration, a season of some activity, but all through that most important season of the Jewish calendar, Daniel is wrapped in mourning, praying, fasting to the end of the feast of unleavened bread on Nisan 21 and three days after that. And yet, all of this three weeks, heaven is silent. The sky is like brass. No response."³ This was an unusual long period. All previous prayers ended in a day.

All of a sudden, God spoke. It was at the Tigris (Hiddekel) river that Daniel received the vision (v4). Whether he was physically there, we cannot tell from the text.

5 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: 6 His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

¹ Paul Lee Tan, *A Pictorial Guide to Bible Prophecy*, 1991, 255.

² John Whitcomb, *Daniel*, 1985, 136.

³ <http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/27-27/The-Vision-of-Glory>

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I believe Daniel was in the presence of God Himself. He met the pre-incarnate Christ.

It was akin to the glorified Christ described in Revelation 1:13-16?

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. Revelation 1:13-16 (KJV)

There is much similarity in the description – voice (multitude, many waters), eye (lamps of fire, a flame of fire), feet (polished brass, fine brass), clothed (linen, gown down to the foot).

It could not be an angelic being as some commentators suggested because we see further evidence of encounter with God, similar to that of Isaiah, Joshua.

*7 And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. 8 Therefore I was left alone, and saw this **great vision**, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. 9 Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.*

Well, from the response of Daniel, it seemed this akin with others like Isaiah 6:1-10 or Joshua's encounter – *13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? 14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? 15 And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so. Joshua 5:13-15 (KJV)*

In the hallowed presence of the pre-incarnate Christ, Daniel felt the corruption in himself. This is like Ezekiel's encounter in Ezekiel 1:26-28 (KJV)

26 And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. 27 And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. 28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of

the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake. Ezekiel 1:26-28 (KJV)

It seemed Daniel was completely prostrated in worship “*then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground*” (v9).

McArthur observed well, “Since Christ is the Commander-in-Chief of all of the invisible angelic army and since He has all authority, it is fitting that He should appear in this particular place because of the nature of this prophecy. This prophecy is going to show you the angelic conflict and warfare that stretched from Daniel’s time until finally the angelic battle of Revelation 12 where Michael and the holy angels defeat the demons and their forces. But all of this period in between now and the Tribulation, in between Daniel and the Tribulation, is a period of angelic warfare. Also, that has gone on since the fall of the angels behind ... or before even the creation of man.”⁴

All of a sudden, the vision disappeared and the angel Gabriel⁵ came to minister to Daniel in his weakness and to strengthen⁶ and enlighten Daniel (v12).

(1) Warfare in the heavenlies (v13-22)

We see in this portion of Scripture spiritual “conflicts in the unseen world, given a glimpse into the world of angels and their roles in international affairs. Both God and Satan has assigned powerful angels to influence rulers and nations, especially their policies toward Israel. These good and bad angels wage supernatural conflicts unseen⁷ by the human eye.”

We see here the reason for delayed answer to prayer. The delay to Daniel’s prayer was due to hindrance from the prince of Persia, the evil angel that presided over the affairs of Persia, causing Daniel to tarry with God in fasting and prayer for 21 days - **13** *But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. 14* *Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.*

The prince of Persia was not a man but a demon. His task was to take control and be able to direct the affairs of Persia as to work against the people of God and the plans of God. It is an incredible insight. This prince had some very close

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Gabriel called Daniel – “a man greatly beloved” in Daniel 9:21-22 “**21** 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. **22** And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.” Daniel 9:21-22 (KJV)

⁶ An angel did minister to our Lord when He was in Gethsemane before His betrayal, **42** Saying, **Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.**

43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. Luke 22:42-43 (KJV)

⁷ Adapted from Paul Lee Tan, A Pictorial Guide to Bible Prophecy, 1991, 255.

relationship to Persia. And in verse 20, we see another demon in charge of Greece.

20 *Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.*

MacArthur observed, "Satan has an incredibly clever organization. He has set up a network of demons that are behind all of the activities of human history. There was a demon assigned to Persia. Verse 20 says there's a demon to be assigned to Greece. The Bible says that all the gods of the nations are demons. And I believe without question, throughout all of human history Satan's network of demons have been behind the scenes, endeavoring to do all they can to foil the plan of God."

Truly, as Paul pointed in Ephesians 6:12 tells us, "*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*"

This is a difficult portion as we determine whether it is the angel Gabriel or the pre-incarnate Christ speaking to Daniel. Whitcomb deduced that it is the pre-incarnate Christ whose voice like the "voice of multitude was speaking based on the understanding that 10:6-9 is the pre-incarnate Christ.

However, we saw also that it was the angel Gabriel who was hindered by the prince of Persia but is finally able to come to reveal the "scripture of truth" to Daniel. If this is the case, then 10:6-9 could not have been the pre-incarnate Christ.

In believe that it is the angel Gabriel speaking to interpret the vision for Daniel. Verse 17, "*For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me.*" The servant refers to Daniel. The phrase "*of this my lord*" refer to the angel Gabriel and "*with this my lord*" refers to the pre-incarnate Christ. This is how I see it.

Daniel is to be instructed pertaining to Persian and coming Grecian kingdom.

21 *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.*

Michael, the archangel, is the prince of the people of God. He stands in a special position, appointed of GOD, for the defense and protection and deliverance of the children of Israel.

CONCLUSION

Thank God for God's children taking time and heart to intercede and pray for the welfare and well-being of God's people as Daniel did. The kingdom of God indeed is advanced on our knees. May the Lord help us to keep praying. Amen.