

Daniel – Chapter 10

- *Last three chapters are one unit*

Chapter 10 is an introduction to the final visions of Daniel, chapters 11 and 12. From our position in time, these three chapters are a mixture of history and future. There is much disagreement among the “experts” as to what Daniel writes is past and what is yet to happen.

- *Limitations of our senses*

In our daily existence, we mostly pay attention to the things which can be picked up by our senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste and feeling. If all of these are taken away or turned off, such as in a person in a coma or general anesthesia, no interaction or recognition of this world takes place for that person.

- *Physical reality beyond our senses*

There are forms of energy and forces of nature, such as radio waves and magnetism for example, that we are not equipped to directly recognize unless these are first converted by other means into a form our senses can deal with.

- *Pictures and sound in the air*

The hundreds of channels of entertainment coming from the sky via electromagnetic radiation onto a satellite dish must be converted by a complex apparatus to select and translate this information into a picture for the eyes and sound for the ears.

- *The force of magnetism*

The unique properties of a magnet cannot be directly perceived until that magnet is brought near a piece of iron or the magnet is allowed to move freely, such as when suspended by a string. We recognize the magnetic force by its tug on the iron and the fact that the suspended magnet always takes a particular direction.

- *Most of universe invisible*

From the part of the Universe which we can see even through the most advanced technology such as the Hubble space telescope and large radio antenna arrays it is evident that 95% of what is there is invisible. So far at least it remains undiscoverable to our limited window into reality offered by our senses and the technological extensions thereof.

- *Two years after the return decree*

Two years after Cyrus issued the decree (Ezra 1:1-3) for the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem Daniel was given the vision recorded in the last three chapters of his book.

Daniel 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Beltshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.

- *Fasting, though not absolute*

Daniel started his fast at the beginning of the Jewish New Year. This was the third day of Nisan and ended 21 days later. He abstained not from eating entirely, but from the luxurious and tasty foods he had access to as a high government official. He also did not partake of some of the personal luxuries he was accustomed to.

Daniel 10:2 At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks.

Daniel 10:3 I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

- *Daniel begins the month of Passover with a fast*

The month of Nisan also has within this fasting period the important feast of Passover and all that was associated with it, and all these holy days fell within Daniel's fasting period. Two days after the conclusion of the feast of unleavened bread on the 21st of this month Daniel breaks his fast and goes with a group down to the Tigris River. The Tigris River is one of the rivers mentioned in Genesis in connection with the Garden of Eden and it also known as the Hiddekel

Daniel 10:4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris,

- *The angel Gabriel or Jesus?*

There are similarities between the description of this messenger and that of the appearance of the Lord Jesus to John causing some scholars to think this was Jesus. However it is more likely that this was an important messenger angel, likely Gabriel again, because of what we read in v11 in that this person received help from another Angel named Michael. The Lord Himself would not need any help.

Daniel 10:5 I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist.

Daniel 10:6 His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

Revelation 1:13 and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

Revelation 1:14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

Revelation 1:15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

- *The forms angels may take*

The word angel is actually the ordinary word for messenger. A military commander might send an 'angel' to headquarters to call on them to send re-enforcements. Angels are beings that normally live in the spirit dimension, but can manifest themselves in an awesome appearance, as here. However, they may also appear quite ordinary, to the point where they are not recognized as anything but human.

Hebrews 13:2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

- *The Lord and two others*

In Genesis 18 there is the story of Abraham interacting with three visitors, one of whom is revealed to be the Lord Himself. The other two have an job to do the next day at Sodom and Gomorrah.

- *Angels vary in rank and power*

The world of angels is one of rank and order, much as in a military organization. The words used in Ephesians are Greek military terms of rank and authority. In today's time they might be classed as generals, colonels, majors, captains etc. In this context that Jesus is far above any such classification as the commander in chief.

Ephesians 1:21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

- *Angels are created beings*

Again we are given these military terms for ranks and position of heavenly created beings that exist for Him, that is Jesus.

Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

- *Angels as servants to humans*

A long and extensive study of Angels is not in place here, but I have brought out just enough to help us understand the place of Angels in the plan of God as pertaining to our study of Daniel. Angels are ultimately ordained to be servants of God, and by extension of His children, of which Daniel is an especially beloved one.

Hebrews 1:14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

- *Physically draining and frightening*

One would think that by now Daniel, having had previous encounters with the spirit dimensions, would have gotten over his frightened response, but this is evidently not the case. Although the men with Daniel did not see the vision itself, they were scared by something to the point where they fled in terror. Perhaps, like those with Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus road (Acts 9:3-8) saw or heard something, but it made no sense to them. All they knew is that they wanted to be somewhere else in a hurry.

Daniel 10:7 I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves.

Daniel 10:8 So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless

Daniel 10:8 (KJV) 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.

- *The word --> comeliness*

howd {hode}

glory 9, honour 6, majesty 4, beauty 1, comeliness 1,
glorious 1, goodly 1, honourable 1; 24

1) splendour, majesty, vigour

- *The word --> corruption*

mashchiyth {mash-kheeth}

destroy 4, corruption 2, destruction 2, set a trap 1,
destroying 1, utterly 1; 11

1) ruin, destruction

- *Man becomes conscious of impurity*

Whenever a mortal comes in contact with the Lord, or even another creature from the eternal realm that person is overcome by a sense of personal impurity to the point total helplessness. This was not the first time this happened to Daniel. After the visions in chapter 8 he was worn out and sick for days and Isaiah cried out "woe is me" (Isa 6:5) as he realized his impurity in relation to the perfection of God.

- *Daniel 90 years old*

By the time Cyrus came to power Daniel was 87 and though he was committed to God and the cause of his people he did not return to his homeland as did just under 50,000 of his fellow Jews two years before. Travel was hard in those days for a strong, healthy young person and Daniel at his age would likely not have survived the trip. By this time he was about 90, and similar to the Apostle John received the final revelation of things to come before he died.

- *A healing, strengthening touch*

This was the third out of four times (8:18; 9:21; v10, v18) that Daniel received a touch from a messenger from the spirit realm. The idea that a touch can convey healing is scriptural.

Daniel 10:9 Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

Daniel 10:10 A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

- *A flow of healing*

There is a transference of healing energy and blessing conveyed by physical contact.

Luke 8:46 But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

- *Hands on*

We don't know how this works, but in the early church, the laying on of hands was practiced and recommended as a means to convey power or blessing.

- *Listen carefully*

Daniel, after having received the strength is once again told that he is much loved and the messenger was especially sent.

Daniel 10:11 He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

- *Heard on the first day*

Daniel's fast began 21 days ago and right then God dispatched the angel.

Daniel 10:12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

- *Reason for the delay*

The angel now tell Daniel that this "Prince of Persia", an opposing angel tried to stop the messenger (likely Gabriel again) from getting through to Daniel. For 21 days Gabriel tried to get to Daniel, but was blocked. At last, Michael, a more powerful angel comes to help Gabriel accomplish his mission. Michael is an angelic military commander who overcomes another angelic being called the "Prince of Persia" who is in opposition to God's order to deliver an answer to Daniel's prayers.

Daniel 10:13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

- *The future of Daniel's people*

One again, as in chapter 9, Daniel is specifically told that what he is about to be shown concerns the Jewish nation and their place at the end of history.

Daniel 10:14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

- *Again Daniel in need strengthening*

An encounter with beings and powers from the dimensions beyond is hard on a mortal being. When Jesus was being arrested the power of the "I am" he spoke had the effect of throwing young, strong soldiers to the ground. (John 18:6) Here the aged, undoubtedly frail Daniel needs repeated infusions of strength.

Daniel 10:15 While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless.

Daniel 10:16 Then one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing before me, "I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I am helpless.

Daniel 10:17 How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe."

Daniel 10:18 Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength.

Daniel 10:19 "Do not be afraid, O man highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong." When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength."

- *I have finally come, but I can't stay long*

He tells Daniel: I have come to tell you the truth but I can't stay long because I have to rejoin the war against the one who tried to stop me from delivering God's message to you. Furthermore, another enemy, called the 'Prince of Greece' will show up when I return to the battlefield.

Daniel 10:20 So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come;

Daniel 10:21 but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.

- *Spirit beings behind earthly kingdoms*

From the above it is apparent that behind the visible world empires at war, there are spirit beings in conflict. This also applies to the personal level.

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- *Your prince*

Apparently Angels are also assigned to individuals, such as Michael connected to Daniel as 'your prince'. Daniel, as a highly beloved of God is given the personal protection of an angelic equivalent of a general and the entire army he commands.

- *Personal angelic protection*

Jesus speaks of guardian angels for children. Notice He speaks of angels, plural, thereby telling us that two or more angels are assigned to each of the King's kids.

Matthew 18:10 "See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

- *Prayer causes action in the spirit dimension*

Daniel prayed with fasting and this resulted in an intense battle in the invisible dimensions. The enemy succeeded in thwarting an answer to Daniels humble request for insight and understanding for three weeks. It took the intervention of the heavenly General Michael and his army to allow Gabriel to deliver the answer to Daniel's request. The name Michael means 'The one who stands before God'.

- *We too are in a battle*

When we pray, the armies of the enemy move against us to thwart what the Holy Spirit speaking through our feeble lips wants to accomplish. However, God then also dispatches His angelic warriors and there is a battle in the dimensions of the spirit world and just as in Daniel's case, victory comes and God's will is accomplished. The time lag between our request and the answer may be due to a battle in the spirit realm.