

Daniel: Chapter 10

Chapter 10:1-21

Dan 10:1 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.

- third year of Cyrus- (9:1; 11:1- first year of Darius) the Persian (3 years after Ezra 1). Daniel understood, but not completely (v. 12). He understood the seventy weeks (Cyrus' decree to the rebuilding = 7 weeks, rebuilding to the coming of Christ = 62 weeks, added together = 69 weeks. In the last [70th] week the Messiah is cut off.). As we will see, this is apocalyptic language and is thus to be taken as figurative in nature.

Dan 10:2 In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.

- Because of the hardships to come, Daniel wept for a solid three weeks.

Dan 10:3 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.

- ...*"those who were sick or in mourning or facing a crisis didn't anoint themselves."* In James 5:14 the anointing *"was an expression of their faith that the person was about to get well."*
- pleasant bread- Heb.2530-to delight in, delectable [Webster: delicious] thing. More than likely this would have been other than unleavened bread.

Dan 10:4 And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel;

- Hiddekel- or Tigris (Gen 2:14)

Dan 10:5 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:

- loins- Heb.4975-waist or small of the back.

Rev 1:13 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.

Dan 10:6 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.

- Beryl- Heb.8658-a gem, perhaps the topaz.
- lightning- Heb.1300-flashing, bright, glittering.

Rev 1:14 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.

- Daniel saw and heard here what John saw and heard later on the island of Patmos; the manifestation of the Son of God.

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Dan 10:7 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.

Dan 10:8 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.

Act 9:7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, **hearing a voice**, but seeing no man. (*Emp. added*)

Act 22:9 And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they **heard not** (*did not understand*) **the voice** of Him that spake to me. (*Emp. added*)

Joh 12:28 Father, glorify Thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, *saying*, I have both glorified *it*, and will glorify *it* again. 29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard *it*, said that it **thundered**: others said, An angel spake to Him. (*Emp. added*)

- These passages show that even when those present heard the voice they didn't necessarily understand it or that it even was a voice. Daniel's "comeliness" (*Heb.1935-grandeur [Webster: dignity]*) became "corruption" (*Heb.4889-destructive, a snare*) and he lost his energy.

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Dan 10:9 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.

- Just the voice of the Visitor caused Daniel to lose his strength and faint.

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Dan 10:10 And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.

- hand- not the hand of the One in the vision because Daniel didn't understand what the meaning of the vision was. We can't even say it was Gabriel because in chapter 9:21 Gabriel appeared while Daniel was in prayer. This angel started to come to Daniel then, but was hindered.

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Dan 10:11 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.

- greatly beloved- "*The first thing I would want to hear from a visitor like this would be that I was an object of love.*"

- stand upright- compose yourself so you can understand what I'm about to reveal to you.

- am I now sent- it took a while for him to get to Daniel (*v. 13*).

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Dan 10:12 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.

- set- (*Heb.5414-to give, direct*)
- heart- (*Heb.3820-feelings, will, intellect, mind*)
- chasten thyself- (*Heb.6031-humble [self]*) Daniel did not practice asceticism. He did not mutilate or torture his body as an act submission. He did deny himself of eating anything that would have been considered delicious (*v. 3*).

- From the moment Daniel began mourning and praying concerning the vision (*v. 1*) the visitor was sent (*responding to Daniel's prayer*) but...

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Dan 10:13 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.

- prince of the kingdom of Persia- The visitor was hindered by "*an evil spirit which was at the back of (influencing) the kingdom of Persia*". The hindering lasted 21 days.

1Th 2:18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but **Satan hindered us**. (*Emp. added*)

Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth **to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?** (*Emp. added*)

Eph 6:12 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**. (*Emp. added*)

- Michael- as "chief (*Heb.7223-first, in place time or rank*) prince (*Heb.8269-a head person*)" (*archangel*) gives "*help to this heavenly messenger*" with which the messenger was able to handle his task there and now come to Daniel (*but he returns, v. 20*).

1Co 2:8 Which none of the **princes of this world** knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (*Emp. added*)

Jud 1:9 Yet **Michael the archangel**, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. (*Emp. added*)

Rev 12:7 And there was war in Heaven: **Michael** and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, (*Emp. added*)

- one of – (*Heb.259—one; or [as an ordinal] first*) In the order of things, Michael was chief or head of the angelic host. If there were other archangels, Michael would have been over them as well.

- kings of Persia- differs from the prince of the kingdom of Persia. These were the actual kings that were ruling at that time. Remember, God sets up and tears down kingdoms at His will. This is a behind-the-scenes example of how He accomplished that will. The captivity was for the purpose of teaching the Israelites a lesson and God used the ungodly to do it. But they had to be controlled in such a way to finish His set plan for the Jews.

Dan 10:14 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.

- befall thy people- befall- (*Heb.7136-to light upon; causatively to bring about*). thy people- (*Heb.5971-a people [as a congregated unit]; specifically a tribe [as those of Israel]*).

- latter days- or "many days", here refers to events that would happen sometime after Daniel was dead but before the end of the Mosaic dispensation (*chapter 11*).

Dan 10:15 And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb.

- Once again Daniel was humbled and speechless at the words of the messenger. "It wouldn't hurt us to be more awed by sacred things."

Dan 10:16 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.

- similitude- (*Heb.1823-resemblance*) Not one like the "Son of man", singular, which gives reference to Christ in chapter 7:13. Angels often appeared as men.

Gen 18:1 And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; 2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, **three men** stood by Him: and when he saw *them*, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, (*Emp. added*)

Act 1:10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, **two men** stood by them **in white apparel**; (*Emp. added*)

- touched my lips- (*Heb.5060-to touch, that is, lay the hand upon*)

Isa 6:6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: 7 And he **laid it upon my mouth**, and said, Lo, this hath **touched thy lips**; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. 8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom

shall I send, and who will go for us? **Then said I**, Here *am* I; send me. (*Emp. added*)

- opened my mouth- from two Hebrew words- (6605-to open wide; specifically to **loosen**) and (6310-mouth [particularly **speech**]). He “untied” Daniel’s tongue.
- lord- (*Heb.113-sovereign, controller [human or divine]*) Compare to Gen 18:1 where Lord means (*Heb.3068-self Existent or eternal; Jehovah*). This is nothing more than Daniel showing his respect toward the heavenly messenger.
- Daniel tells the messenger how the vision has had an effect on his energy.

Dan 10:17 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.

- Daniel asked the messenger how he could be able to converse with him. He has lost so much energy over the vision that he is out of breath.

Dan 10:18 Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me,

- A second time the messenger laid his hand upon Daniel. At this point Daniel was strong enough and was able to grasp the news.

Dan 10:19 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.

- Once again the messenger tells Daniel that he is so highly loved and respected (*mainly because he humbled himself*). With that Daniel was told not to fear this angel's presence but to be courageous so that he could be told what the vision was about. Daniel then tells the angel that he had the strength to listen because he was strengthened by the comforting words spoken to him.

Dan 10:20 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.

- The Greeks were next in line. They conquered the Persians who then kept the Israelites captive (*along with the Ptolemies and Seleucids*). The angel had to return to his activities against the evil behind Persia. When he goes, the Greeks and their behind-the-scenes demonic supporters will arrive and Daniel will have to deal with them next.

Dan 10:21 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.

- "Having made his commission clear, he tells Daniel he will reveal the message" and then he and Michael will return "to contend against the evil beings behind Persia."

- scripture- (*Heb.3791-something written, that is, a writing, record or book*) The messenger's mission was to reveal to Daniel what he read in the writings of Jeremiah (9:2) which were certain to come true.

- none that holdeth with me- He was alone in this mission without the strength of other angelic beings except Michael.

- your prince- As though Daniel was a personal favorite of Michael.

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