

Daniel Chapter 10

Pastor Mike Wells Study Notes

Chapter 10: Daniel 10 does not contain any major prophecy, however, it reveals amazing details of battles which go on in the spirit world. Usually we are oblivious to these. Daniel by this time was an elderly man. Some of the captive Jews had already been allowed to return home. Here Daniel is in prayer once again on behalf of his people due to the complications concerning the return of his people to the land. The chapter contains two divisions: (1) Daniel's vision near the river Hiddekel in verses 1-9; and (2) Daniel expecting revelation of future events in verses 10-21.

Daniel 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.*

- The time is two years after Cyrus had issued his edict for the restoration of the Jews and the rebuilding of the Temple. (See Ezra 1:1)
- Daniel is an elderly man by this point, maybe ninety years old.
- Daniel writes in the third person at this juncture in referring to himself.
- In that third year of Cyrus, a ***thing*** was revealed to Daniel.
- The word translated as thing (***dabar***) is the common Hebrew word for ***word***.
- It also is commonly rendered as a 'matter'
- Daniel knew what had been revealed to him was the truth.
- He also realized its fulfillment was far into the future.
- God gave Daniel understanding of the prophecy which was about to be revealed.

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

- After receiving the prophecy, Daniel mourned three full weeks.
- He understood the implications of the impending judgement that lay ahead regarding Jerusalem and Israel from the prophecy

Daniel 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.*

- Daniel explains that he was in prayer and fasting for a period of three weeks.
- In understanding the vision and prophecy about to be revealed, Daniel not only mourned, but fasted for three weeks.
- Here is a scriptural illustration of partial fasting.
- Daniel did eat food during his fast.
- However, he did not eat good or tasty food— no meat or sweetened beverages.
- He essentially ate only bread and water, etc.
- Neither did he '***freshen***' himself (use perfume or cologne, or maybe even soap)
- He truly afflicted himself before God.
- Daniel had been fasting before God to understand the vision given him.
- It was three weeks until an angel arrived to give him the full understanding he sought.

Daniel 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.*

- Some commentators view the first month spoken of here as referring to the Hebrew month Nisan (the first month of the Hebrew year).
- Other's view is as the first month of the third year of Cyrus.
- Either way, Daniel continued in prayer and fasting on the twenty-fourth day of that month.
- Jews in captivity often would gather in prayer near a river, perhaps for ceremonial cleansing.
- The River Hiddekel is viewed by most commentators as another name for the Tigris River, running through the heart of ancient Babylonia.

Daniel 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.*

- While in prayer, a '*man*' appeared to Daniel.
- It is evident that this '*man*' is a heavenly messenger
- Many believe this was pre-incarnate Jesus Christ, but I don't agree.
- Though his description is similar to that of Jesus Christ in Revelation 1, events in the chapter indicate that this individual is an angel as he needed assistance in battling opposition from Satan.
- Demons tremble at the name of Jesus but they will take on angels all day.
- The angelic messenger is described as being clothed in linen, implying pure white.
- The accessory garment was a girdle or belt of highly refined gold.
- Uphaz was an ancient site renowned for its pure gold.
- The angel's girdle was compared to that famous gold.

Daniel 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.*

- The word translated as **beryl** (*tarshiysh*) literally is '**tarshish**,' likely referring to the ancient Mediterranean city by that name.
- Apparently, a fine type of gemstone was made available from Tarshish.
- Beryl is a yellow-colored stone.
- The body of the angelic messenger was compared to this gemstone.
- His face had the brilliance of lightning and his eyes had a piercing stare.
- His arms and feet had the brilliance of polished brass.
- His voice was like the a roaring voice
- Again, though the description closely parallels that of Christ, the context that follows will indicate the messenger to be just an angel.

Daniel 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.*

- Similar to Paul on the road to Damascus years later, Daniel saw a vision from God.
- However, his companions did not.
- They were greatly shaken and fled for safety.

- As is the case throughout Scripture, being confronted with a angel from God was a terrifying experience.

Daniel 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.*

- Daniel was left alone before a mighty angel of God and saw the vision by himself.
- There all alone, he had absolutely no strength.

Daniel 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.*

- As Daniel heard the angel begin to speak, he was induced into a deep sleep and fell flat on his face on the ground.
- Notice again the example in scripture of falling prostrate on your face in the presence of the things of God and not backwards like the false teaching from the charismatic's when they claim to be "slain in the spirit"

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

- As the angel began to speak, his hand touched Daniel and set him up on his hands and knees.

Daniel 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.*

- Though terrifying in his appearance, the angel spoke kindly to Daniel.
- He referred to him as a man greatly loved by God.
- He told Daniel to stand upon his feet.
- The angel had been sent by God to Daniel.
- There Daniel stood trembling before the angel.
- There are similarities here between this event and that of Isaiah in Isaiah 6:5.
- When mortal men, even as godly as Isaiah or Daniel, are confronted with divine holiness, even in the person of an angel, they are terrified.
- The absolute Holiness of God instills the fear of the Lord.

Daniel 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.*

- The angel told Daniel that from the first day he started to pray and fast—three weeks earlier—that God had taken had heard his prayer.
- As soon as Daniel '*chastened*' himself before God, God was aware and heard his prayer.
- In fact God sent the angel to help Daniel.
- Clearly implied is that God takes special note when His people set themselves to fast (chasten themselves) and pray.
- Notice again the importance of fervency and seriousness of purpose in prayer.

- As is usually the case when an angel appeared, frightening those present, the angel directed Daniel to “*fear not.*”

Daniel 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.*

- Notice that it took the angel twenty-one days to reach Daniel.
- He was held up by the prince of the kingdom of Persia.
- A remarkable glimpse into the spiritual battle in the heavens is revealed here.
- The ‘*prince of Persia*’ most likely refers to a satanic lieutenant who blocked the angel of God from reaching Daniel.
- Implied is that this fallen angel had been given charge over the kingdom of Persia by the devil himself.
- This is an illustration of Ephesians 6:12 where we read of spiritual wickedness in high places —literally ‘*wicked spirits in high places.*’
- Satan seems to have a highly organized and disciplined empire that among other things includes assignment by earthly subdivisions.
- They clearly have spiritual power.
- In this case they withheld an angel of God for three weeks.
- Notice also that there is allusion not only to the prince of Persia, but also the ‘*kings of Persia,*’ implying other rulers or principalities in high places.
- There again appears to be rank and organization within Satan’s empire.
- The fact the demons of Satan could block an angel of God for three weeks tells of their power.
- Finally, God sent reinforcements led by Michael, one of the chief princes (archangels).
- And the messenger angel prevailed in reaching Daniel.
- Clearly implied is that we have no idea of the spiritual battles which must rage in the atmospheric heavens above. (See Revelation 12:7)

Daniel 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.*

- The angel announced to Daniel that he had come to give him understanding of what would happen to his people (Israel) in the latter days.
- The prophecy will be revealed in the next chapter.
- Though much of it clearly is of events during the Greek era of history, clearly other portions thereof look forward to the return of the Lord in the future (tribulation).
- The angel informed Daniel that (fulfillment of) the vision was yet for many days—during the latter days.
- We know that to be the Day of the Lord (the Tribulation).

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

- Upon hearing the introductory comments by the angel, Daniel again is stricken in the presence of God’s messenger.
- He again bows his face to the ground (notice again – prostrate)

Daniel 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.*

- Another angel came and gently touched Daniel's lips.
- Then Daniel spoke to him.
- Daniel already had some understanding of the impending prophecy and it grieved him to such a degree, he had no strength.
- He knew the terrible things which eventually would overcome his people.

Daniel 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 was so overwhelmed with all he understood that he could not talk to the angel.
- He had no strength left in him.

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

- Notice the mercy and compassion of the angel.
- Though an angel of God, he was holy.
- Yet, he also was merciful and gracious.
- And so is God.
- The angel gently touched him and imparted strength to him..

Daniel 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.*

- Again, the angel told Daniel that he was greatly beloved by God.
- Again, he told him to fear not.
- He told Daniel to be strong of spirit and emotion.
- Notice how when God's messenger had touched him and spoken unto him that Daniel was strengthened.
- When, God touches us and speaks to us, we are strengthened!
- Even today when his messengers speak to us, we are strengthened.
- Daniel then asked the angel to proceed and talk to him.
- God through His angel had strengthened Daniel.

Daniel 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 angel then asked Daniel if he understood why he had come to him.
- He came to grant understanding of the prophecy.
- Daniel affirmed that he understood.
- The angel then indicated that he would return to heaven and fight his way back against the Prince of Persia.
- He also warned that the Prince of Greece (a demonic spirit) was coming.

- This was an allusion to the fact that the next empire rising on the horizon of history would be the coming Greek empire.
- There would be a high ranking demonic spirit assigned to that empire to influence it.
- Clearly implied is that the devil assigns high ranking angels to influence human government, especially nations with worldwide dominance.
- Hmmm – And now we have a president that says we are no longer a Christian nation.
- Hmmm – I wonder how powerful the demon assigned to the USA is right now

Daniel 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.*

- The angel then prepared to reveal to Daniel the detailed prophecy found in the next chapter, much of which will deal with the coming Greek empire and its aftermath.
- But notice again that it was necessary for Michael to ‘**hold**’ (withstand) with the other angel in the spiritual battle ahead.
- Notice also that Michael is referred to as “**your prince.**”
- God apparently has assigned him to Israel as their archangel.
- In this chapter we have thus caught a glimpse of the spiritual warfare which goes on above us.
- We also have caught a glimpse of Satan’s organizational structure in this world and of his power.
- Praise the Lord: greater is he that is in us, than he that is in the world!!