

Daniel

Chapter Ten

- The last three chapters of Daniel are to be treated as one extended vision. Angel reveals the history of Israel from Persian period (time when the vision was given—until coming of the Kingdom of God)
- Significant details concerning the coming Greek Empire
- The line between what parts of prophecy have already been fulfilled, and what remains to be fulfilled is not always clear
- Principle of double reference—predictions that have immediate and local fulfillment as well as a distant/all encompassing fulfillment
- Fulfillment of the immediate gives insight into future fulfillment (Antiochus Epiphanes/antichrist)
- Chapter 10 is Preparation for vision
- Visions come in two groups of two—first in 1st and 3rd year of Belshazzar, second in 1st and 3rd year of Cyrus

Daniel 10:1-3

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; and the message was true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision. In those days I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all, until the entire three weeks were completed.

- 3rd year of Cyrus—537 BC—4 years after the vision of the 70 weeks
- 1st year of Cyrus—made a decree permitting Israel to return to the land—Ezra 1:1-4 (first group of exiles had returned to Jerusalem at this point)
- Two years had passed—few had returned with Zerubbabel
- Prior to time when Ezra leads a group to return—and Nehemiah leads another group back
- Grieved Daniel to see the reluctance of Israel to return—he was in a state of prayerful turmoil
- Cyrus—the Persian King who conquered Babylon in 539 BC leaves Darius the Mede to govern
- Time of great war and conflict
- Daniel has not been referred to as Belteshazzar since chapter 5
- He is fasting from tasty food—meat--wine

Daniel 10:4-6

And on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris, I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, who waist was girded with a belt of pure gold of Uphaz. His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult.

- 24th day of first month—Passover had taken place 10 days earlier on 14th day (Feast of Unleavened Bread from 15th-21st—time to remember deliverance from Egypt—so Daniel contemplates people returning to the Promised Land)
- Description of heavenly messenger—a theophany
- Dressed in linen—priestly clothing made of linen (Lev 16:4)
- Description is similar to Ezekiel 1:26-28 and Rev 1:12-16
- Tigris=Hiddekel
- Jesus uses phrase 'a certain man' in the parables—concerning God the Father or about The Son—similar to vision of ascended Christ—seen by John and described in Revelation
- Begin to get a glimpse of heavenly realities that are behind human/natural conflicts

Daniel 10:7-9

Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength. But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

- Caused enough terror to cause his companions to flee

Daniel 10:10-13

Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. And he said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up

trembling. Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

- Vision of Christ has passed---angel comes to speak—probably Gabriel
- God's word enabled Daniel to respond
- God's attendance to prayer can be clearly seen—Daniel's prayers were in response to believing and rehearsing His Word
- Daniel approaches God in fasting/prayer. God notes his humility
- Divine visitation due to Daniel humbling himself to seek the Lord
- The Lord heard Daniel on the first day he prayed—response is delayed for 3 weeks—due to 'Prince of Persia' (Greece also has an angelic counterpart)
- Michael—one of the chief 'Princes'—oversees Israel
- This chapter introduces us to an order of angels—good and evil—fallen and unfallen. Angels can hold differing ranks and positions (Col 1:16)—and be both visible and invisible (Eph 6:12)
- There is spiritual wickedness in heavenly places—demons associated with religion and region
- Prayer is the weapon for spiritual battle
- Romans 15:30—strive together in prayer=sunagonizom=agonize—to break through the barriers to release spiritual power
- Vs 13—angels have power to resist forces of the evil one
- Luke 18:1—we should at all times pray and not lose heart

Daniel 10:14-17

"Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future." And when he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. And behold, one who resembled a human being was touching my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, and said to him who was standing before me, "O my lord, as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength. For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me."

- Latter days=in the future
- End of the age—time of the end

- Daniel is once more prostrate before the Lord
- Became speechless—deprived of the power to respond
- Vision concerns ‘Thy people’—Israel is the subject
- First encounter with spiritual being appears to be a theophany—this second description—an angelic messenger (Probably Gabriel)
- Daniel is being given future insight into the Kingdom of Persia—and Kingdom of Greece
- Satan attempts to block information from getting to Daniel
- This section shows us the critical work of prayer—and the supernatural forces being engaged
- James 5:16
- What we learn about the angelic realm: 1) angels are real 2) good and evil angels 3) they can influence the affairs of man 4) can effect governments and leadership

Daniel 10:18-21

Then this one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me. And he said, “O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!” Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, “May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.” Then he said, “Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come. However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.”

- Indication of nature of warfare in heavenly places (Is 24:21-23)
- Do you understand why I came—Josh 5:13-15
- Angel will return to resisting Prince of Persia—2 more centuries of Persian rule—539-331 BC)
- This struggle concerning Israel in the heavenly realm would include: reconstruction of the temple, deliverance of Jews during the time of Esther, and permission for Ezra and Nehemiah to return

Daniel Chapter Ten-----Workbook

Project:

Keep a diary for the time we spend on chapter ten. Record any God stories, answers to prayer, needs, insights, etc.

Harmonize:

Read Ephesians 6:10-13. How can these verses transform your prayer life?

Dig:

- 1) What insights can you gain by reading 8:1, 9:1, and 10:1?
- 2) How would you describe Daniel's three weeks of prayer?
- 3) Name one similarity shared in the visions (8:1-2, 10:1-4).
- 4) Describe the messenger that Daniel encounters.
- 5) What is the first command issued to Daniel by the messenger?
- 6) What response did Daniel have to this encounter with the heavenly messenger?
- 7) From the context of chapter ten—Who do you think the Prince of Persia is?
- 8) What conclusions can we draw from reading 10:1-4 and 10:12-13?
- 9) Who is Michael?

10)What gifts are given to Daniel in chapter ten?

11)Who is being described in verses 5-6?

Discuss:

- 1) What lessons can we learn about prayer from chapter ten?
- 2) What do you know about angelic beings? What is the source of your information?
- 3) What is your normal response when there is a delay in God's response to your prayers?

Point of Prayer:

Seek the Lord—to see if the answer to one of your prayers is delayed due to spiritual opposition.

Integrate:

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

Application:

- 1) What previous experience caused you the greatest emotional or spiritual depletion?
- 2) Is there anyone in your circle of friends who needs to know/believe that the Lord loves them?
- 3) How does God touch your life to strengthen you?
- 4) Have you endured any spiritual depletion recently? When does this tend to take place?
- 5) Who has the ability to encourage/strengthen you with their words?
- 6) How do you recognize a 'fear' response in someone?
- 7) Do you experience anxiety when you are in unfamiliar territory physically or spiritually?