

# The Book of Daniel

## Chapter Ten



Chapters 10 through 12 of Daniel chronicle a single vision received by Daniel while next to the Tigris River. They provide great detail of Israel's future, such detail that for years, liberal scholars have denied that Daniel wrote this passage.

### 10:1 – The Time of the Vision

*“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 Reign of Cyrus

By way of review, Cyrus, the Persian was the king of Medo-Persia that conquered Babylon on the ill-fated night of Belshazzar's evil party. It appears that Cyrus made Darius a king over the area of Babylonia, our equivalent of a governor (see Daniel 9:1), but Cyrus maintained his position over the whole empire. Daniel provides us a chronological cue to the giving of this prophecy to the third year of Cyrus' reign, approximately 537-536 BC.

What significant events were occurring at the time this vision was given to Daniel?

**This was around the time that the decree to build the temple was given and the work of the temple began. Many of the Jews returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylonia to do the work of rebuilding the temple. This was also the period of time covered by the beginning of the book of Ezra. This was the end of Daniel's life. He was now an old man.**

Also remember that Daniel's Babylonian name was Belshazzar, given to him by King Nebuchadnezzar out of deference to the gods of Babylonia.

The vision Daniel receives in this passage was for the people of Israel and was to cover many years yet to come. The Lord granted him understanding of the vision so that it could be clearly recorded by the aid of His Spirit and passed on, to be revealed at the appointed time.

### 10:2-3 – A Time to Mourn

*“In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. 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.”*

What characterized Daniel's mourning?

**He ate no pleasant bread (bread of pleasures or desires), avoided meat and wine, and refrained from anointing himself (probably similar to Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 19:24). He ate only enough to sustain his life (not a complete fast) over this duration and gave himself wholly to seeking God in humility.**

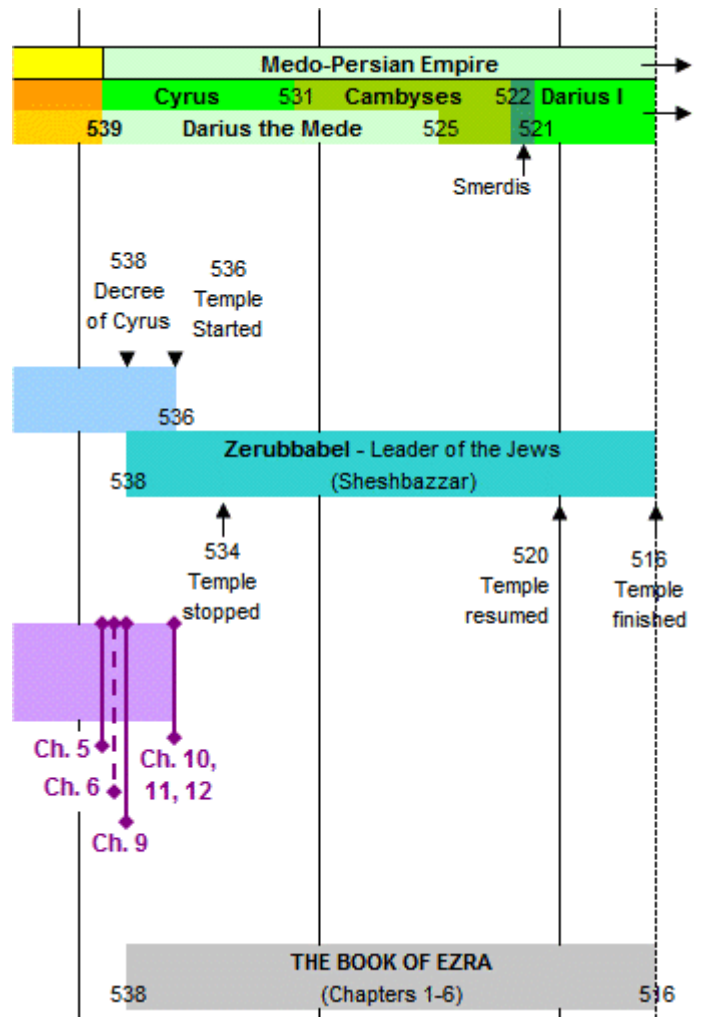


Figure 1: Timeline of Chapter Ten

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Why was Daniel mourning? (see verse 12)

He was seeking an answer from God. We can conjecture that it may have been the vision from Chapter 9, where the Lord told him of the rebuilding and destruction of the temple after another period of rebellion by the Israelites. It may be the difficulties the Jews were facing in their attempt to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. You will notice by the timeline on the first page that there was a 14 year work stoppage that commenced at roughly the time of Daniel's prayer. We know from verse 12 that he had set his heart upon seeking understanding from the Lord about the future of Israel. That is revealed by this vision.

10:4-6 – Blessed are they that Mourn...

*“And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel; 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: 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.”*

Daniel's visitation occurred on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan (April to us). This was just after the conclusion of the Passover week, which is observed from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of Nissan by the faithful Jews. He was at the side of the river Hiddekel, which we know as the Tigris River. The Tigris is East of the Euphrates River, which ran through ancient Babylon. Both of these rivers run are in modern day Iraq and the land between them was historically known as Mesopotamia (the land between the rivers).

As Daniel was beside that River, the greatest even of his amazing life occurred. Who was this man that appeared to Daniel?

I believe it was none other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Compare the passage above with the vision of Jesus seen by John in Revelation 1:13-16:

Daniel	Revelation	References	Meaning
“a certain man clothed in linen”	“one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot”	Exodus 28:42, Jeremiah 13:1, Matthew 17:2, Revelation 7:13-14	Priest, Prophet, Purity
“whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz”	“and girt about the paps with a golden girdle”	Isaiah 11:1-5	Ready for action, Royalty
“his face as the appearance of lightening”	“his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength”	Matthew 17:2	Glory
“his eyes as lamps of fire”	“his eyes were as a flame of fire”	John 1:4	Life and Light in Him
“his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass”	“his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace”	Ezekiel 1:7	Glory
“the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude”	“his voice as the sound of many waters”	Genesis 1:3	Power

10:7-9 – I Can Only Imagine

*“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. 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. 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.”*

Many of us have heard the song, “I Can Only Imagine”, which speaks of what it will be like to be in the presence of Christ Himself. The song conjectures whether we will sing, dance, fall to our knees, or even be able to speak at all. Daniel was blessed beyond measure to experience the glorified presence of Christ while on this side of eternity. Let's see how he responded.

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Why did only Daniel see the vision? (See also Acts 22:6-9, Luke 10:22)

God is able to direct His presence and glory to just the person or persons to whom He wishes to communicate. The other men knew something amazing was happening and they couldn't remain there, but Daniel was allowed to stay and see the Christ.

What was Daniel's physical position when He first saw Christ?

Comeliness was turned into corruption – my natural color turned to a deathly pallor

He was perhaps standing or kneeling to pray and he had lifted his head (vs. 5) to look upon the appearance of "The Man" that came to visit him. His strength left him and he turned sheet white.

How did this change once Christ spoke?

Once Christ spoke, Daniel could no longer even hold his head up, but was in almost a stupor with his face bowed to the ground in total humility before the great I Am.

What does this tell us about the greatness of God compared to one of the most righteous of men?

Daniel is the only intimately described man in Scripture that does not have any of his sins recorded. This doesn't mean he was without sin, but that he was a man that sincerely followed the Lord. However, even Daniel was without strength to stand before the Almighty. How would we fare?

How does Daniel's reaction compare with John's reaction in Revelation 1:17?

There reaction seems to be virtually the same, although Daniel's provides much more detail about how exactly he felt.

## 10:10-11 – Daniel Strengthened

*"And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. 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."*

Looking at this passage, do you believe the individual standing before Daniel was the same one who stood before him in the previous part of the chapter? Why or why not? (read again the remainder of the chapter), We notice that there are angels coming and going during this vision. It is difficult to discern whether he is talking to the Lord, whom he saw at the beginning of the vision or whether this is a heavenly messenger now before him. Some parts of the passage seem to indicate that this is the Lord Jesus (Daniel continuing to have difficulty speaking – v17). However, when the passage speaks of the messenger being detained and needing Michael's help, it is difficult to understand how this could be the Lord Jesus.

Imagine the blessing Daniel received to hear that he was "greatly beloved". This is almost the "well done thou good and faithful servant" that we aspire to hear at the end of our journey. The messenger now states that from the first day he set his heart to understand the matter, his words were heard. What does this teach us about prayer? (See John 9:31)

We don't have to have a response to know that our prayers are heard. If we are one that is truly seeking the Lord and desiring to honor Him, we are promised that He hears and will answer according to His will in His time.

## 10:12-14 – Peeking behind the Curtain

*"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. 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. 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."*

To know not only that God hears but He answers is a sweet encouragement to the people of God. We know the promises made in Scripture, but there is a certain beauty to see a man of frail human form cry out to God continually until he gets an answer.

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When did God dispatch this messenger? Why is it significant? (see Jeremiah 29:13)

God dispatched the messenger when Daniel set his heart to understand and to chasten himself. This means that when Daniel got serious about finding an answer, the Lord wasted no time in sending a response. God isn't obligated to answer our every whim or half-hearted prayer. But when we "seek with all our heart" we will find.

What lessons can we learn from the timing of God's answers to prayer?

God wanted this spiritual battle to be recorded in Scripture. It wasn't that God could not have given Daniel the answer immediately, but that He chose to allow the delay to accomplish a greater purpose.

What is this conflict between the "prince of Persia", the messenger, and Michael, one of the chief princes? (See Daniel 10:21, Ephesians 6:10-18).

The curtain is being lifted on the "great machine" whirling in the background that makes this world turn. We are getting a glimpse into what is going on behind the scenes. The princes referred to here are angels. Michael is a holy angel, assigned to the nation of Israel. The prince of Persia was obviously a demon who was trying to influence the idolatrous nation of Persia for evil. The demon resisted this angel to seek to thwart his mission, but he was delivered by Michael, the holy angel.

What was this messenger doing with the kings of Persia? (Read 2 Chronicles 36:22-23)

The Lord had worked through Cyrus to allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. This angel was probably continuing to influence the affairs of the Jews in Medo-Persia so that their work could continue on the Lord's schedule.

What is the significance of the 21 day battle with the prince of Persia?

This is the same duration of time that Daniel was fasting. He fasted until he received an answer from the Lord. Daniel was told that from day one, the Lord heard his prayer, but that the message was delayed because of the resistance from the prince of Persia.

I remained there – a better translation may be "I was no longer necessary". Once Michael showed up to take care of the battle, the messenger was now able to resume to the original assignment.

## 10:15-19 – Daniel Strengthened Again

*"And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. 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. 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. Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, 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."*

Why did Daniel have to be strengthened two more times? (see Psalm 139:1-6, Judges 6:22-23)

Two reasons come to my mind. The first is that he was in the presence of unspeakable glory. Such glory is more than our mortal shell can handle without the aid of God. Secondly, he was receiving amazing revelation. He mentioned that because of the vision, his "sorrows turned upon" him.

What does Daniel mean when he says, "my sorrows are turned upon me"? (see 1 Samuel 4:19, Daniel 8:27)

This is a physical or mental pain or anguish. He was greatly distressed over what was occurring and it was affecting him physically. This is probably similar to what happened when he witnessed the vision in Ch. 8.

We see by illustration that the Lord is able to both abase and to strengthen as He pleases. Paul said the Lord told him, "... My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (2 Cor. 12:9) There is no limitation of man that he cannot overcome, nor any power of man that can stand in his presence.

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### 10:20-21 – The Purpose of the Vision

*“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. 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.”*

Why was it necessary for the messenger to return to fight with the prince of Persia? Wasn't he already overcome? What about the prince of Greece that would come after? What is the lesson here?

Satan wasn't done trying to influence the affairs of Medo-Persia after one setback. Look at the chart on pg. 1. Remember that we are reading about something that happened in 536 BC. What happened in 534 BC? The work on the temple stopped for 14 years! Even then, there were hindrances to the work. Just because we experience a victory over Satan doesn't mean the war is over. Expect an attack! We have witnessed this often in our short ministry. The enemy is alive and well and is working overtime to attack. There is no place to sit down or rest. Ephesians 6:13 reminds us that after we have prepared ourselves for warfare, we must stand!

What is the “scripture of truth” mentioned by the messenger? (see Daniel 7:10, Acts 15:18, Revelation 5:1)

The Bible is God's revelation to man, but it clearly does not contain all of the works of God, an explanation of them, or a comprehensive explanation of all that is to come. It appears that there is a scripture of truth in heaven that contains all of the works of God with mankind. The messenger is revealing a portion of those writings as they pertain to the future of Israel, to Daniel.

What does the messenger imply by the statement, “there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.”?

If the princes were to represent angels (or demons) assigned to each nation, it is clear that the host of world powers were demonically aligned against Israel to destroy it from the face of the earth. Yet, God was executing His sovereign plan and protecting the nation from destruction.

What solemn warning can we take from this?

Satan is no less actively pursuing the destruction of the Church of the Living God, both from the inside and the outside. Yet, the Lord is waging a spiritual warfare on our behalf to hold back the army of the wicked one and allow us to accomplish His plan. This might give us a different perspective on the “angels” of the churches mentioned in Revelation two and three.