

# 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?

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?

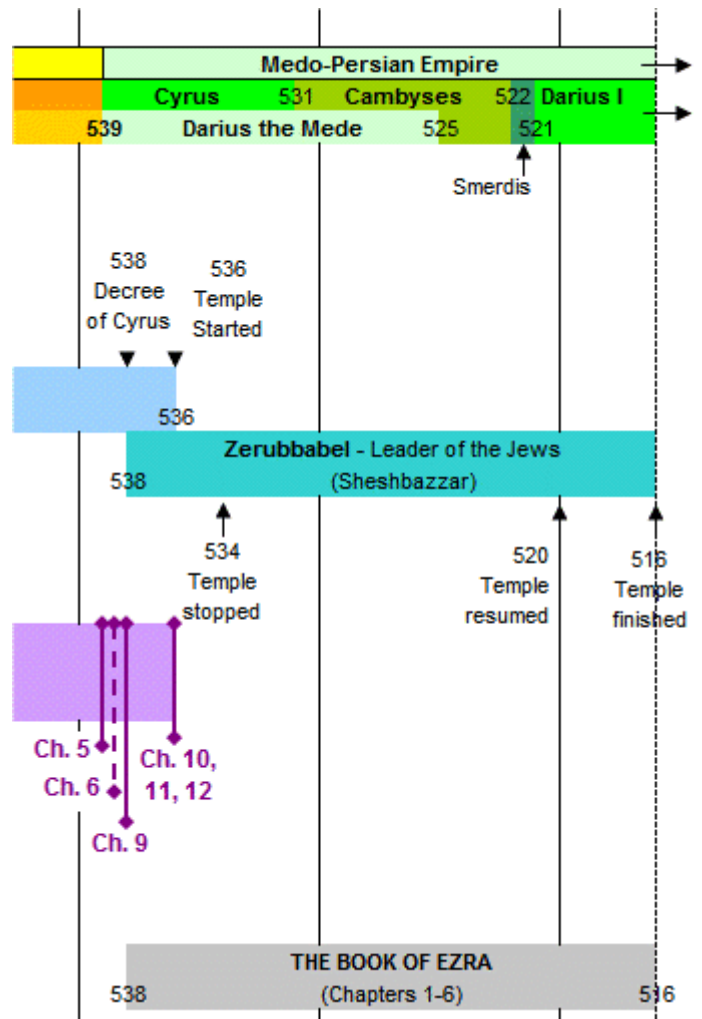


Figure 1: Timeline of Chapter Ten

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Why was Daniel mourning? (see verse 12)

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?

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	
“whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz”	“and girt about the paps with a golden girdle”	Isaiah 11:1-5	
“his face as the appearance of lightening”	“his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength”	Matthew 17:2	
“his eyes as lamps of fire”	“his eyes were as a flame of fire”	John 1:4	
“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	
“the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude”	“his voice as the sound of many waters”	Genesis 1:3	

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)

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

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

How did this change once Christ spoke?

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

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

## 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),

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)

## 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)

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

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).

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

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

I remained there –

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)

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

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?

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

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

What solemn warning can we take from this?