

Daniel 10

Daniel 10 is an introduction to the prophetic vision remaining in Daniel's last two chapters, which will give more detail on God's plan for the restoration of the Jews presented by Gabriel in Daniel 9:24-27.

Daniel: *Dual Book of History & Prophecy*

Chapter 10 – The Vision of the Glory of God

Setting the Stage for Daniel's Fourth Vision (Verse 1-3)

- 1** Daniel (Belteshazzar ^{Daniel 1:7}) "was given" a revelation in a vision in the "third year of Cyrus". This occurred in 536 B.C., two years after Cyrus allowed the first group of Jewish captives to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple ^{2 Chronicles 36:22-23, Ezra 1:1-4, 6:1-5}. Daniel gave assurance the message he was given "was true" ^{Daniel 8:26} and "concerned a great war". Some people have suggested that this verse signifies a discrepancy with an earlier verse stating "And Daniel remained there until the first year of Cyrus." ^{Daniel 1:21}. However, that verse was only indicating that Daniel would remain in the service of Babylon until the Medo-Persian reign of Cyrus.
- 2-3** Daniel's statement that he "mourned for three weeks" spoke of his deep conviction ^{Ezra 9:3-4} that he was about to learn something very important and he wanted to be fully prepared. Daniel fasted ^{Daniel 6:18} by eating just what he needed to live and used no anointing oils, in response to his grief ^{Daniel 9:3} over Israel's judgement and what was ahead for his people.

Daniel Sees and Reacts to a Vision of a "Man" (Verses 4-9)

- 4** On the 24th day of Nissan (March/April), Daniel was literally (not in the vision) standing on the bank ^{Daniel 12:5} of the Tigris River ^{Genesis 2:14} with some other men ^{v.7}.
- 5-6** Daniel "looked up" ^{Daniel 8:3} to see "a man dressed in linen", with linen the apparel for priests ^{Exodus 28:39-43}, heavenly visitors ^{Ezekiel 9:2-3, Revelation 15:6} & Jesus' burial wrap ^{Mark 15:46}. The 'man's' belt was embroidered with "the finest gold" ^{2 Chronicles 3:8, Revelation 1:13} (literally "fine gold of Uphaz" ^{Jeremiah 10:9}). Daniel continued describing the "man" by saying "His body was like chrysolite": a transparent jewel used in the breastplate of the High Priest ^{Exodus 28:20} and in the foundation of the New Jerusalem ^{Revelation 21:20}. He then stated "his face [was] like lightening" (a brilliant countenance ^{Psalms 4:6, Matthew 17:2}), "eyes like flaming torches" (penetrating eyes ^{Revelation 1:14, 19:12}), "arms and legs like...burnished bronze" ^{Ezekiel 1:7} (bronze usually indicates judgement ^{Revelation 1:15}) and "his voice like the sound of a multitude" (a voice that cannot to be ignored ^{Ezekiel 43:2; Revelation 1:15}).
- A discussion of who the "man" was that appeared to Daniel is presented at the end of these notes.

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7-9 Daniel "saw the vision" of the "man", but Daniel admitted "the men with me did not see it". However, even though the other men saw nothing, the vision created a "terror" in them so overwhelming that "they fled and hid themselves". Left alone ^{Genesis 32:22-24}, the sight of the heavenly visitor left Daniel very weak, pale-faced ^{Daniel 5:6,9, 7:28} & "helpless" ^{v.16, Habakkuk 3:16}. As Daniel heard/listened to the "man" speak, he fell asleep face down ^{Ezekiel 1:28, Matthew 17:1-6}. This was not the only time God kept some people present in a situation from seeing a vision. Examples: Elisha, his servant & an Aramean army ^{2 Kings 6:15-20} and Saul & companions on Damascus road ^{Acts 9:1-9}.

Daniel's Strength was Restored by the "Man" (Verses 10-11)

10-11 The hand of the "man" touched Daniel ^{Jeremiah 1:9, Revelation 1:17}, which "set [Daniel] trembling ^{Mark 5:25-33} on [his] hands and knees" ^{Ezra 9:5}. The "man" encouraged Daniel by calling him "highly esteemed" ^{Daniel 9:23, 10:19}, and then began to prepare Daniel for his learning the message of the vision by telling him to stand up ^{Ezekiel 2:1} so he could "consider carefully the words [he was] about the speak". Daniel stood, but he was still "trembling".

The "Man" Revealed the Purpose of His Visit (Verses 12-14)

12 The "man" told Daniel: "do not be afraid", that his "humble" prayer to God ^{James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6} was heard ^{Isaiah 65:24} from the very "first day" ("as soon as [Daniel] began to pray" ^{Daniel 9:23}) and that he had "come in response to" Daniel's supplication ^{Daniel 9:4-19}.

Biblically, God offered the words of comfort "do not be afraid" to many, including Abraham ^{Genesis 15:1}, Moses ^{Numbers 21:34}, Joshua ^{Joshua 8:1}, Elijah ^{2 Kings 1:15}, Jacob ^{Isaiah 44:2}, Paul ^{Acts 18:9} and John ^{Revelation 1:17}.

13 The resistance from the prince of Persia ^{v.20} apparently referred to a spiritual battle between the heavenly "man" and a fallen angel (a demon) ^{Ephesians 6:10-12}, but with help from Michael, the "man" was able to complete his journey from heaven to the Tigris River and Daniel.

This is the first Biblical mention of the archangel ^{Jude 1:9}, Michael ^{Daniel 10:13,21, 12:1, Jude 1:9, Revelation 12:7}.

14 The "man" prepared Daniel by explaining his mission was to detail Israel's future ^{Daniel 9:22-27}.

Daniel was Strengthened for a Second Time (Verses 15-19)

15 Daniel was stunned: he "bowed [his] face toward the ground and was speechless" ^{Luke 1:20}.

16 The "one who looked like a man" "touched [Daniel's] lips" ^{Isaiah 6:6-7} and he "began to speak". Daniel was "overcome with anguish" ^{Isaiah 21:3} and "helpless" ^{Psalms 10:12} "because of the vision".

17 The strength and breath drained from Daniel, so he stated he could not speak to "[his] lord".

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18 The "man" touched Daniel ^{v.10} and strengthened him ^{Daniel 8:18} for a second time ^{Daniel 10:10-14}.

19 Daniel was once again referred to as "highly esteemed" ^{Daniel 10:11} and told to "not be afraid". The "man" said to Daniel "Peace!" ^{Judges 6:23} & "Be strong" ^{Joshua 1:9}, resulting in Daniel being strengthened ^{Luke 22:43} and recognizing he was then fully prepared for the vision message.

An Introduction to the Heavenly Revelation (Verses 20-21,11:1)

20-21a The "man" asked Daniel "Do you know why I have come to you?" even though he had already answered his own question: to respond to Daniel's prayer ^{v.12-14}. The "man" then explained he was going to return to his spiritual battle with the "prince of Persia" ^{v.13}, but not until he explained the "Book of Truth" (literally "writing of truth"), meaning the Bible and God's other revelations ^{Isaiah 46:9-11}. He also warned Daniel the "prince of Greece" (another demonic, fallen angel) was on his way.

21b-11:1 The "man" proclaimed the archangel Michael ^{v.13} was his 'only' ally, as well as his support & protection for Darius the Mede in his first year (perhaps a title for Cyrus ^{Daniel 10:1}).

Almost all of the verses describing the "man" seem to leave little doubt that Daniel experienced a Christophany (a preincarnate appearance of Jesus). For example:

- Verse 5: The "man" was dressed in linen ^{John 19:40} and wore a belt of gold ^{Revelation 1:13}.
- Verse 6: The "man" had a "face like lightening" ^{Psalms 4:6, Revelation 1:16}, with "eyes like flaming torches" ^{Revelation 1:14, 19:12}, with "arms and legs like...burnished bronze" ^{Revelation 1:15}, and a "voice like the sound of a multitude" ^{Ezekiel 43:2, Revelation 1:15}.
- Verse 7: The "man" saw a vision the men with him could not see, but became afraid ^{Acts 9:1-9}.
- Verses 8-9: The "man" responded to the "great vision" by a loss of strength and then falling asleep with his "face to the ground" ^{Ezekiel 1:28, Revelation 1:17}.
- Verse 10: The "man's" "hand touched" Daniel ^{Luke 5:13, Revelation 1:17} and he trembled ^{Mark 5:25-33}.
- Verse 12: The "man" said to Daniel: "Do not be afraid" ^{Genesis 15:1, Judges 6:23, Luke 12:4, Revelation 1:17}.
- Verse 15: Daniel "bowed" his head to the "man".
- Verses 16-17: The "man" "touched [Daniel's] lips" ^{Jeremiah 1:9}, and seeing him made Daniel weak.

However, a few of the other verses seem to make it less likely that the "man" was Jesus.

- Verses 13,20: If the "man" was Jesus, then it makes no sense that He needed Michael's help to battle the prince of Persia, or any physical or spiritual being ^{Luke 4:33-36, John 13:3, Acts 10:37-38}.
- Verses 16, 17, 19: Daniel referred to him as lord (master, ruler, LORD), not the LORD (Yahweh).

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