

Bible Study – Daniel

Week 12 – Chapter 10

I. 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.

- A. Despite the decree for the Jews to return to Israel, very few left. They had become comfortable and even prosperous in Babylon and didn't want to leave.
- B. Ezra chapter 2 gives an account of how many captives returned. Adding up the numbers give here, it was 42,600 people.
- C. Daniel was in mourning because so few went back and were accomplishing nothing in the land of Israel.
 - a. Some commentators say that he didn't return home because he was too old and feeble.
 - b. He might not have gone back himself, not because he was too old, but because he felt responsible for motivating the rest of the Jews to return home.
- D. According to Daniel 1:21, Daniel retired from the Presidency he was appointed to during the first year of the reign of Cyrus. He was around 85.
- E. "Tasty Food" – Daniel was fasting. In this form of fasting, he was still eating food, but he was not eating any of the delicacies. He ate bland and minimal things to sustain himself only (bread and water).
- F. Ointments were used for personal grooming
- G. "Weeks" is literal weeks here, not symbolic of years.
- H. Daniel could have been upset because of misunderstanding. While he was deported in 605BC, the 70 years of desolation may not have actually begun until 586BC when everything was destroyed. While Cyrus did give a decree that the Jews could go home, not all of them did. Three other decrees were given with this same intention. The Jews seem to have gone back to Israel in waves, just like they were deported in the first place.

II. Daniel 10:4-6

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, whose 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.

- A. Daniel began his fast on the 3rd of Nisan. The Passover was celebrated on the 14th of Nisan and lasted for 7 days. Daniel fasted all the way through the feast that was to celebrate the exodus from Egypt. He likely chose this date range on purpose because it reminded him of the current exile of the Jews.
- B. This is perhaps another Pre-Incarnate Christophany
 - a. This may not have been Gabriel because when Daniel met Gabriel in 9:21, he was not afraid of him.
 - b. Revelation 1:13-15 - and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, ^[d] dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters
- C. In the Old Testament, many times when it speaks of “The Angel of The Lord”, it may be referring to a Pre-Incarnate Christophany.
- D. Fine white linen is the garment of the priest or those that represent God – it represents God’s holiness
- E. The figure described in 10:5-6 may be a theophany, while the angel described in vs. 10-14 may only be there to interpret for the Lord. In short, there could be two different entities described here.

III. Daniel 10:7-11

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. ¹⁰ Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 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.

- A. When the Lord comes either in person or in a vision, people are terrified, even the saints. The people who couldn’t even see the vision were overwhelmed with panic because of their sinfulness.
- B. Daniel lost his strength, fell face down, and entered a great sleep. This is very similar to what happened to John in Revelation 1:17.
- C. In vs. 10, the vision of the Lord passes and the angel enters the scene. This may have been Gabriel, as he was the normal messenger from God.

IV. Daniel 10:12-14

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. “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*.”

- A. Again, for the first time when Daniel began to pray, the response was sent from Heaven, but the angel was held up this time. This is a further indication that this is a different character than was spoken of in vs. 5-6. God is not held up by anything.
- B. Michael became involved in the conflict with the Prince of the kingdom of Persia likely because Daniel was praying for Israel and Michael was entrusted its care. Daniel 10:21.
- C. This was spiritual warfare. This “Prince of the kingdom of Persia” was evidently another angel. Otherwise, he could not have held up Gabriel. This could have been Satan, himself.
- D. This passage reveals:
 - a. Angels are real
 - b. There are good and evil angels
 - c. Angels can influence the affairs of humans (leaders and governments)
- E. All of this is done by God’s will and as He sees fit. Certain free-will is given even to fallen angels and demons.

V. Daniel 10: 15-19

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.” Then *this* one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me. 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.”

- A. “My Lord” in this context would be translated as “sir”
- B. The angel was reassuring Daniel that he was safe because he was highly regarded.
- C. The angel restored Daniel’s strength
- D.

VI. Daniel 10:20-21

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.¹

- A. The angel asks a rhetorical question because he revealed why he came in vs. 12 and 14. It was because Daniel was praying for Israel. He did this to refocus Daniel's attention as the appearance had obviously weakened/distracted him.
- B. The angel had to go back and continue the fight with the Prince of Persia.
- C. The angel also indicates that a fight with the Prince of Greece is coming. This alludes to the kingdom that arose after Persia fell.
- D. "the writing of truth" is the pre-ordained plan of God
- E. Here it is revealed that Michael is the Prince of Israel.
- F. Michael alone stands against these forces not because he is the only one who can fight them or that is available, but because he is all that is needed.

¹ *New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update* (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995), Da 10:1–21.