

Daniel

"A Remarkable Experience"

(Daniel 10:1-11:1)

The Four Prophecies Given to Daniel:

Chap.	Event	Year	Daniel's Age
7	The Vision of the Four Beasts	553	67
8	The Vision of the Ram and the He-Goat	550	69
9	The Seventy Weeks Appointed to Israel	539	81
10-12	The Vision of Israel's Future and the End	536	84

The Outline:

- A. A Concerned Prophet (10:1-3)
- B. An Awesome Vision (10:4-9)
- C. An Invisible War (10:10-11:1)
 - 1. Daniel's 1st Strengthening and Statement of Purpose
 - 2. Daniel's 2nd Strengthening and Statement of Purpose

Ephesians 6:10-12:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Context: The third year of Cyrus was 536 BC. This is the latest date given in the entire book and Daniel is now 84-85 years old. Daniel had lived long enough to see Jeremiah's prophecy fulfilled and the first group of Jewish exiles return to their land to start to rebuild the temple. The opening verse is likely a title for the recorded document, as it is written in the third person and identifies Daniel's Babylonian name. The vision God showed Daniel was true, he understood the vision and he recognized that it would be fulfilled many years later (Also translated "concerning a great war"). Daniel would learn that his people would experience great suffering in the years ahead, but that the Lord would watch over them and ultimately establish the promised kingdom.

Reasons for Daniel's Mourning & Fasting: Daniel certainly had concern for the exiles that returned to their land. Being an important person in government, he had access to official reports and had heard that the exiles arrived in the land safely. Also, he knew that the foundation of the temple had been laid but that the work had now stopped and that the Jews were suffering hardships in Jerusalem. He would wonder how God was going to fulfill his promises to his people.

Setting of the Vision: Daniel was standing on the bank of the Tigris river. It was the 24th day of the 1st month, which was the month that the Jews celebrated their spring feasts. In this month they celebrated the Passover (along with first fruits and unleavened bread) which commemorated God bringing the nation out of bondage in Egypt centuries before. Now God was bringing the nation out of Babylon and back into the land. Being in Babylon, Daniel could not celebrate these feasts, but he could pray that the Jewish remnant living in Jerusalem would be a holy people so that God could bless them.

Daniel Saw a Man (Daniel 10:5-6)

Clothed in linen
Belt of gold
Body of beryl
Face of lightning
Eyes like flaming torches
Arms & Legs like burnished bronze
Sounded like a multitude speaking

John Saw a Man (Rev. 1:12-16)

Clothed in long robe
Golden sash around chest
White hair on head like snow
hair on head like wool
Eyes like flames of fire
Feet like burnished bronze
Sounded like roar of many waters

The reaction of the two men seeing these similar images was the same. Daniel's reaction was to fall on his face in a deep sleep with his face to the ground (Daniel 10:9). John said, that when he saw him, he fell at his feet as though dead (Revelation 1:17). John saw the glorified Christ in heaven (Revelation 1:13). Could it be that Daniel saw a preincarnate vision of the 2nd Person of the God-Head? Many scholars believe so. Others have successfully defended Gabriel, or an unknown angel. Regardless, while many hold that the vision is a theophany, they also hold that the one who touched and spoke to Daniel in v10, was an angel, likely Gabriel. That said, it is hard to be dogmatic about this.

The Invisible War: Daniel's conversation with the angel reveals to us the important fact that there is an invisible battle going on the heavenlies between the forces of Satan and the forces of God. For several weeks Daniel had been praying for wisdom to understand the visions he had already seen, but the answer to the prayer was delayed. Why would the Lord not immediately answer the petitions of his beloved prophet? Because the "prince of the kingdom of Persia," and evil angel, had attacked the angel bearing the answer. This evil angel was assigned to see to it that the king of Persia did what Satan wanted him to do. Michael, the archangel, assigned throughout Scripture to minister to Israel (Jude 9), assisted the one who touched Daniel (v10) and together they won the battle. When Lucifer rebelled against God and was judged, some of the angels fell with him and became the demonic angels that oppose Christ and obey Satan (Isaiah 14:12-15). It appears that there are specific evil angels assigned to various nations. That's why Paul told the Ephesian believers that the Christian's battle was not against flesh and blood but against the demonic forces in the heavenlies that oppose the holy angels that always do God's will (Ephesians 6:12).

Conclusion: Daniel 10 gives a brief glimpse into an area of reality which most human beings are totally unaware – the role of Christ and angels in international affairs. Both God and angels have assigned powerful angels to influence rulers and nations in their policies – particularly policies for Israel. Behind the scenes of international events there rages a great supernatural conflict invisible to the human eye. The statement, "I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth," suggests that God has prewritten the course of history, again emphasizing the theme of the Book of Daniel – The Sovereignty of God.

Next Week: "A Remarkable Prophecy – Part 1 (Daniel 11:2-35)"